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THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH 2016

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National Pet Month & Rural Life in the Vale...
PAGES 18-20

Bridge repairs mean closure of main road into Bridgend

REPAIRS to a railway bridge will mean that a main road into Bridgend will be partially closed over the coming weekend.

The Cowbridge Road Railway Bridge in Bridgend is being refurbished as part of Network Rail's £40bn Railway Upgrade Plan.

Network Rail engineers will be carrying out essential repairs to address the

damage caused by a number of vehicles that have struck the bridge in recent years.

They will also use the opportunity to improve the bridge's appearance by removing the current dilapidated paint coating and giving it a fresh lick of paint.

In order to complete the repair work, the A473 Cowbridge Road will be closed to all traffic from 8pm this Friday (March 11), and will reopen at 5am on Monday, March

14. A diversionary route will be in place and will be clearly signposted.

Pedestrian access on the footpaths underneath the bridge will also be closed for the duration of the work. Network Rail will be providing a free minibus, to shuttle pedestrians from one side of the bridge to the other, in order to minimise disruption.

Rebecca Healey, community relations manager for Network Rail Wales, explained: "The railway bridge on Cowbridge Road is getting a much-needed facelift."

"We have concentrated this essential work into as short a time-frame as possible to minimise disruption to our line-side neighbours, pedestrians, and road users."

"We would like to thank everyone in advance for their patience," she added.

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl recently held its annual international evening at the Hi Tide Inn, when it again invited students from the Atlantic College at St Donat's in the Vale to share an evening of music, food and world-wide cultures.

Fourteen students and over 150 guests were

wonderfully entertained by Porthcawl Rotarian Rob Chick and his daughter Stephanie, who accompanied her father on the harp.

Their programme included a selection of Welsh songs and melodies – very apt for the evening, since the club's international committee always aims to host the evening on the nearest Monday to St David's Day.

After their meal, the students (from Japan, Russia, El Salvador, Palestine, India, Norway,

Spain, Malaysia, Swaziland, Jordan and Pakistan) spoke about their country, culture, history and explained the colours of their flags.

Some sang or danced, but all were enthusiastic and delivered thought-provoking introductions to their countries to an enthralled audience.

Last year, the proceeds from the evening were donated to Father Cashin (formerly from Porthcawl) for a water project in Zambia. This year, the Rotary Club is pleased to report that proceeds from the international evening will be donated to the Green Tara Trust, a special charity in Nepal.

The Porthcawl club chose this charity for two reasons: firstly, it gives the club an opportunity to support the country after its devastating earthquake and secondly, the trust was founded by Dr Jane Stephens, who grew up in Porthcawl and was educated at St Clare's Convent.

Her father, Barrie, is an honorary member of the club.

The charity supports mothers and babies in rural areas in Nepal, which is one of the poorest countries in south Asia, with one in two people living in poverty.

The amount raised on the night will go to Dr Stephen's charity and will be matched by Rotary.

IVOR WILLIAMS

ROTARIANS' INTERNATIONAL EVENING!



ABOVE:

The international evening was hosted by the Porthcawl Rotary Club.

T'PAU

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LEFT:
She can't wait to get her hands on the choir's new CD!

Bridgend Male Choir's successful CD launch

BRIDGEND Male Choir (BMC) has had its first CD launch in six years, achieving sales in excess of £2,500 in the first few days, not including those sold at Tesco and Asda, Bridgend and Pyle, and Wales in Union at Porthcawl.

Feedback on the new CD, "Sounds Like..." has been very positive, a credit to the choir's music team; Music Wales Ltd and Jayce Lewis in particular, plus the enthusiastic choristers.

It's been a hectic, but hugely enjoyable period for the choir, around the launch date, St David's Day. Some of the highlights include an appearance at Oldcastle School, Bridgend's Welsh Week celebrations, when the

senior choristers were enthralled with the school choir's performance of 'Naughty' from Roald Dahl's *Matilda* and music specialist teacher, Miss Charlotte Boughton, entertained with a quite beautiful soprano voice.

Also included in the music teams were Miss Ros Harris from the school and Rhiannon Williams-Hale from BMC.

Next on the enjoyment list was a Saturday visit for BMC to a very busy Bridgend Designer Outlet to entertain shoppers and promote its CD. Crowds stopped to listen to the Choir perform live songs from the CD, plus hear other recordings from a sound system. Rhiannon, together with accompanist, Stephanie Bailey, helped make the event a great success.

This week it's back to rehearsal for what has become in recent years a very popular, Three Choirs Concert at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 7pm on Friday (March 11).

Joining BMC will be a very harmonious group of lady choristers, Vocelle, and the children's choir of Oldcastle School. Tickets, £6, can be purchased in Bridgend from Felicity's Jewellers, Nolton Street and Williams & Evans, Outfitters, Queen Street, both Bridgend.

They are also available at the church entrance, immediately prior to the start. By attending, you will be supporting the worthy St John's Trust, which aims to purchase, preserve and revive the old, historic St John's building on Newcastle Hill.

DAVID T BURT

Inspiring sports talk and celebration for Saint's day

ON February 19, the Civic Charity committee and friends with the Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend – Coun Richard Young – enjoyed a charity lunch at the Great House Hotel and restaurant.

Comperé Chief Superintendent of South Wales Police Stuart Parfitt introduced the guest speaker Non Evans MBE, a Welsh speaker and former Welsh women's rugby international who made her debut for Wales against Scotland in 1996. She played 84 times for her country.

Wales and the world all-time leading points scorer, she retired in December 2010 and scored 64 International tries for Wales, a world record for men and women's rugby.

She also won a silver medal at both the 1992 and 1996 Commonwealth judo championships and competed for Wales in 2002 Commonwealth Games. She competed in the weightlifting and

finished ninth. In 2016, Non was placed second in the British wrestling championship and earned a place in the Welsh team for 2016 Commonwealth Games – the first woman to compete in all three sports at a Commonwealth Games.

Non is a TV and radio broadcaster and has her own business, Fitness, Health and Positive Attitude.

The annual St David's celebration with 'an evening of entertainment and enjoyment' was held at Heron Hall, Heronsbridge School on March 2.

The evening was hosted by Rev Michael Komor, Rector of the parish of Coity, Nolton and Brackla with Cychurch; Area Dean, and the Mayor's Chaplain.

The pupils of Heronsbridge and Llangwydd schools entertained to a very high standard, enjoying being together once again in aid of the Civic Charity appeal for local charities.

The pupils of Heronsbridge School choir were: Kian Rowlands, Richard Pugh, Shay Morgan, Jack Vincent, Ellen Hurley, Keiron, Morgan Brunt, Lewis, Davies, Rachel Bold, Josh Johns, Robin Williams, Morgana Luke, Lisa Maria Poucher, Liam McGuire, Courtney Peterson, Cathy Townsend, Tally Williams, Ioan Evans, Sam Waters, Heavenly White. They sang nine items: Circle of Love,

I've Got the Love of a Mountain, Praise Him, Roar, Sospan Fach – soloist Lewis Davies. There's a Dragon on the Flag – soloist Matthew Thomas, Són Am Iesu, Mae Gando'r Byd Cyfan yn ei Law, and I'm Special.

Directed by Helen Hoey and accompanied by Claire Williams.

Llangwydd School Choir comprised pupils: Mia Thomas, Rhys Keagle, Taylor Davies, Megan West, Jack Davis, Will Davies, Jessica Williams, Katie Jacka, Holly Ralph, Freya Allen, Mia Allen, Isabelle Wilson, Jessie Cantle, Amelia Ciulik, Nina Pennell, Sienna Wilson, Kiera Durston, Luke Davies, Gwen Hearse, Jasmine Scott Reynolds, Made Hemming, Ellie May Trigg, Chloe Watts, Nathan Webb, Lillie Richards, Carys Davies.

They sang: Happy, Hall of Fame, Tomorrow, Let it Go, Titanium, When You Believe, Roar, and The Climb.

The choir was directed by Ms Bethan Hatch and supported by the headteacher Mrs S Davies. The evening ended with the choir singing The Whole World in His Hands together.

The next event is An Evening of Musical Splendour with local artists at Archbishop McGrath RC High School on Friday, March 18 at 7pm. Tickets £5. For further information, contact 01656 664105 or Coun M Thomas on 01656 871439. MM

Bridgend Bridge Club round-up

The results at recent events were:

Wednesday, March 2: 1st Tony Disley and John Evans, 2nd Patrick Jourdain and Tony Ratcliff, 3rd Vida Halford and Glyn Williams. Winners on handicap Tony Disley and John Evans.

Thursday, March 3: 1st Frances Heslin and Dee Finch, 2nd Diane Reynolds and Leila O'Hagan, 3rd Stuart Davies and Sheila Gass. Winners on handicap Frances Heslin and Dee Finch.

Friday, March 4, Max Powell Rosebowl Pairs: 1st Jane Brook and

Wendy Williams, 2nd Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill, 3rd Glenda Roberts and Liam Sheridan.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr P George – 20 The Green Avenue, Porthcawl – Single storey extension and garage.
Wetherby Buildings Systems – Unit 17A, Millers Avenue, Brynmynyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend – External sign on post near gate, external sign above door entrance.
Mr Les Boucher – 38 Deri Avenue, Pencoed – Reduce/remove overhanging branches to Oak (T1).
Mr Robert Summers – 28 Gelli Aur, Pencoed – Remove branches of two oaks to rear of property.
Mr J Parry – 19 Bryn Melys, Broadlands – Remove two lower limbs and reduce overall size by 2-3 meters, remove dead wood of ash tree.
Laleston Community Council – Llangwydd Junior School, Llangwydd Road, Bridgend – Construction of multi-use games area.
Miss Gemma Burnell – 23 Herbert Street, Blaengarw – Decking to rear.
Mr Daniel Apsee – La Cocina, 2 Derwen Road, Bridgend – Two branded 'La Cocina Tapas' signs illuminated on black powder coated arm, double sided to front of building.
Mr Wayne Dawkins – 156 Caerau Road, Caerau – Detached garage extension to rear.
Cardiff Ready Mix – Plot 116, Village Farm Road, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Use of land for concrete manufacturing including the installation of a batching plant and ancillary development.
ASDA Stores Ltd – Land off Cychurch Road, Bridgend – Change of use of part of store car park to an automated petrol filling station and associated infrastructure.

Neath Port Talbot Planning Department – Former Margam Surface Mine, Ffordd T Gyfraith, Cefn Cribwr – Alternative restoration and aftercare scheme, engineering works, landscape works, pumping earthworks, soil reclamation.
Mrs Dawn Moore – Lower Court House, Suites 1 and 2, 2 Derwen Road, Bridgend – Changing from A2 and B1 to sui generis. Toning tables, reflexology and nail technician/beauty.
Mr Clayton Ritchie – 53 Lllys Pentre, Broadlands – Retrospective application for garage converted into habitable room.
Hancock Town Planning Ltd – Land rear to Canolfan The Triangle, Brackla – Approval of condition 3 of P/15/740/FUL, fencing.
ABA Holdings Ltd – The Jennings, Eastern P r o m e n a d e , Porthcawl – Discharge of conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 20 of P/15/609/FUL.
Waterstone Homes Ltd – Bayswater Tubes Site, Heol y Geifr, Pencoed – Discharge conditions 6 and 21 of P/15/110/OUT.
Miss Amy John – Myrtle Cottage, Derwen, Bridgend – Two storey rear extension.
Mrs Elaine Day – 42 Clos-y-Deri, Nottage – Single storey rear extension.
Mr Michael King – Side garden of 13 Highfield Place, Sarn – Outline application for one x two-storey, two-bedroom dwelling.
Western Power Plc and Surf Teleco – Plynedd yr Aber land near electricity substation at Pant-y-Wal wind farm.
Ogmore Valley – Prior notification for a 15m high transmission tower with one 60cm dish and associated equipment.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
10 Thur	07.16	10.7	19.36	10.6
11 Fri	07.58	10.8	20.19	10.7
12 Sat	08.42	10.6	20.59	10.4
13 Sun	09.25	10.3	21.46	9.9
14 Mon	10.09	9.7	22.29	9.2
15 Tues	10.58	10.9	23.23	8.5
16 Wed	11.59	8.1		
17 Thur	00.33	8.0	13.21	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

Excellent review of Youth Theatre's West Side Story

Congratulations to Philip Irwin for his excellent review of Bridgend Youth Theatre's production of West Side Story.

He eloquently expressed everything I and many others felt about it, except perhaps one thing: the young performers would have done credit to their company on the West End stage.

I speak as one who lived as an ex-pat in London for over 40 years.

The abundance of talent and sheer professionalism was amazing.

The same may also be said of the Porthcawl Comprehensive's recent performance of *We Will Rock You*, which was also a stunning production.

For the record, I am

not related to, nor do I personally know, any member of either cast – so my opinion is unbiased.

I heartily agree with Philip Irwin's comment on the disappointing size of the audience and I simply cannot understand it.

However, as I haven't stopped talking about these shows ever since I saw them, perhaps I shall succeed in encouraging more people to see the performances put on by these two groups next year.

I hope others will do the same.

In the meantime, many thanks to Mr Irwin for giving the Bridgend YT the brilliant review that it so richly deserved.

Betty Beynon, Porthcawl.

'Don't let rugby fall victim to boorish behaviour'

I WOULD like to add my support to the mother who took her seven year old son to the match last Friday only to have to tolerate the most foul language and drunken behaviour of so called fans.

The response from the WRU suggests that it is for the law abiding fan to bring bad behaviour to the attention of stewards who they claim are trained to deal with such situations.

Why do they have to be alerted? Don't they have eyes, or are they too focused on watching the game?

This is not a new problem; several years ago, I took my granddaughter to a Six Nations game and suffered the same foul-mouthed abuse, and on top of that, it is night-on

impossible these days to enjoy the occasion without numerous individuals getting up and down several times during a match to refill their beer glasses when in many cases they are already inebriated!

Why is it that the bars remain open during the game, can't people sit for 80 minutes without a beer?

Surely it is time for the WRU to prohibit the sale of alcohol five minutes before kick-off and restore the facility at full time.

I appreciate there will be a loss of revenue from the sale of alcohol, but having paid £85 for a ticket one should be allowed to watch the game uninterrupted, except perhaps to answer a call of nature!

I will not be renewing my original debenture. John Evans, Talygarn.

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Area misses out on a second sports car coup

ST ATHAN will not be the location for a second top car maker, following Aston Martin's decision two weeks ago to set up a base in Wales.

Auto Express magazine had tipped TVR to follow in Aston Martin's tread marks, and start a new production line in the Vale, pointing out the potential for cooperation between the two manufacturers.

Last week there had been hopes that the Vale might be able to boast a second car manufacturing coup.

But local MP Alun Cairns revealed that he had been in touch with TVR and they wouldn't be coming to the Vale.

Mr Cairns explained: "I have spoken with senior management from

by GEM REPORTER

TVR about the possibility of locating in the Vale.

"I can confirm that they are looking at other areas in Wales, but I am having discussions with a number of companies now taking a second look at the Vale following the Aston Martin announcement.

"Other major companies like Renishaw and Dow Corning are very important for the local economy.

"One of the most exciting prospects following the Aston Martin announcement is that start up companies will be encouraged to develop projects across a variety of industries in St Athan and further afield."

Court's suspended sentence for a woman caught smuggling drugs

A 34-year-old woman who took class C drugs into Parc Prison, Bridgend, concealed in an intimate area, has been jailed for nine weeks, the sentence suspended for two years, at Cardiff Crown Court.

When Michelle Gibbons went into the prison, a sniffer dog indicated that she was carrying drugs, said prosecutor Jason Howells.

Gibbons, whose address was not revealed in court, because she resides in a safe house as a result of domestic violence, admitted taking Diazepam into the prison and possessing cannabis.

In addition to a suspended sentence, she was made subject to a 7.30pm to 6.30am

Report by
AJ SICLUNA

curfew for three months and she was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

She was told by Judge Jonathan Furness: "You are a victim of domestic abuse and have been rehouse."

"Those who take drugs into prison cause enormous difficulties to prison staff and inmates." He said that it was the first time he had encountered Class C drugs being taken into prison.

Mr Howells said that on August 19, Gibbons went to the prison and in the visiting area, a trained dog indicated she had drugs. She produced two Valium tablets from her bra, which she said were for personal use.

She was arrested and later strip-searched,

when 23 Diazepam tablets were found concealed on her person.

She also had cannabis in her handbag.

The Diazepam tablets, said Howells, were worth about £120.

When interviewed by the police, she said: "No comment" to all questions.

Gibbons, the court heard, had convictions for 38 offences including possessing amphetamine and shoplifting.

Her counsel, Byron Broadstock, said there was no suggestion that she had been under pressure to take the drugs.

"This is an exceptional case," he said.

He pointed out she was "paralysed with fear" at the prospect of going into prison.

He added: "Custody would have a detrimental effect on her. An alternative is available."

W E L S H while phone canvassing, people highlighted to me that if Porthcawl had places for children with special needs, the cost of transport in taxis would be lower, and it would be better for the children, so they don't have a long journey to school."

Instead, they have to be taken by taxi to a suitable unit in Bridgend or elsewhere.

Welsh Conservative regional AM Dr Altaf Hussain has urged education chiefs at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to make provision for specialist classes in Porthcawl's schools.

However, BCBC officers responded by saying that Porthcawl had relatively few pupils who needed this service.

Dr Hussain's call comes after figures obtained after a Freedom of Information (FoI) request by Welsh Conservative Assembly candidate George Jabbar.

This revealed that BCBC spent £970,853 for the 2014-2015 financial year on taking children to schools in the borough in special-needs specific taxis.

Mr Jabbar said: "I asked the council for this information because

OGMORE ANGLING CONTEST

THE Ogmere Angling Association's annual junior fishing competition will take place on Sunday, June 5 at the Dipping Bridge on the River Ogmere between 10am - 1pm.

Open to all OAA members under 18; non-members can join the club on the day. OAA promotes catch-and-release; barbless hooks will be supplied on the day and measuring boards will be used. Free refreshments!

The association thanks all local businesses who donated prizes for the event.



They were dancing in the streets at the Celtic Festival in Porthcawl. (See pages 4 and 5 for a full report).

COUNCIL HITS BACK AFTER TORIES CRITICISE AUTISM EDUCATION IN PORTHCAWL

by PHILIP IRWIN

Society in Bridgend, Jill Grange, who said: "I would support local special and specialised classes for autistic and SEN children."

"Our children take longer and find it harder to build relationships and need specialist support to do so. In my opinion it is possible to make reasonable adjustments in local facilities which would reduce travel time, costs and the stress involved in transport, ensuring the special needs child arrives at school ready to learn."

Dr Hussain said that he had received a letter from Deborah McMillan, the corporate director, Education and Transformation, at BCBC, where she says: "The town in which each pupil lives is of primary importance when decisions are made about placement."

"This not only ensures that pupils stay within their local communities, and are given the opportunity to walk to school, but it also prevents long periods of

time travelling between home and school in taxis or minibuses."

A BCBC spokesman said: "While there isn't any provision within Porthcawl itself, pupils with a dual diagnosis of autism and moderate learning difficulties are well supported by observation classes and learning resource centres only a few miles away at schools, including Cornelly Primary School, Cefn Cribwr Primary School, Pil Primary School and Cynffig Comprehensive."

"There are currently fewer children living in Porthcawl who need this provision than in other parts of the county, but we are committed to

providing services that meet the needs of all local children and are constantly reviewing provision.

"A small number of pupils who require extra specialist support are transported to attend one of our Communication Resource Education (CARE) centres, which are in several locations across the county borough."

"Of those pupils, eight per cent are from Porthcawl, which works out as three pupils - two in the foundation phase and one in key stage 3. The annual cost of providing transport for pupils from Porthcawl to these 'CARE' centres is £7,695."

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PEOPLE from the Celtic nations came together over the weekend (March 4-6) to enjoy Celtic music and dance at the Wales' InterCeltic Festival - Cwlwm Celtaidd.

With Wales' Jamie Smith's Mabon and Scotland's RURA the main weekend headliners, Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion was filled with Celtic music and dance.

The excitement also spilled to the streets of Porthcawl with dance groups Skedden Jiarg, Pen-y-Fai and Berree Bane entertaining the crowds and the California District Pipe Band surprising the town centre shoppers.

Anne Hughes, the festival secretary said: "As a committee, we're very happy to be able to organise the festival and be able to meet people from Celtic nations and become friends with them.

"We hope the festival will become more and more popular and we can spread the knowledge of Celtic traditions to all. We really feel that Wales needs a festival like this."

The festival will return to Porthcawl on March 3-5, 2017.



ABOVE: Local enthusiasts had lessons in folk dancing.



'We've come from the Isle of Man'.



Dancing outside the Grand Pavilion.



ABOVE: The parade down John Street, led by the Scottish pipers.



'My shawl has no pocket for my smartphone!'

Samantha B

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Two cross-border choirs in harmony at Porthcawl church



A CELEBRATION concert at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl featured Cor Meibion Porthcawl and the Marazion Apollo Male Voice Choir from St Ives, Cornwall.

This promised to be a wonderful musical evening and so it turned out to be, with both choirs at their very best performing to a full church.

The programme presented by both choirs was varied but different: Marazion opened proceedings with Hymn to Apollo, which has become very much their signature tune. This was followed by an Italian piece, a Latin hymn and finished with the popular song Anthem from the musical Chess.

Cor Meibion Porthcawl began their programme with the rousing Welsh hymn Bryn Myrddin. This was followed by What a Wonderful World, a

quieter piece. Other songs from Porthcawl were the ever popular O Gymru, Old Man River (featuring a solo spot from Phil Davies) and On the Street Where You Live from the musical *My Fair Lady*.

The end of the first half and second half of the concert featured both choirs in unison singing in Welsh and English simultaneously Rachie and Gwahoddiad. The audience responded with rapturous applause.

The second half continued in a similar vein with Cor Meibion Porthcawl ending proceedings with the appropriate World in Union.

A truly memorable evening was had by everyone who attended and participated.

Everyone is now looking forward to the annual concert on Saturday, September 3 at the Grand Pavilion, when the guest artist is Welsh tenor, Wyn Evans, of *Go Compare* fame.

MALCOLM EVANS

The Oakwood Friends get healthy together!



Micropub's search for a board game champion!

AS part of the inaugural celebration of National Board Games Week from April 25 -30, pork pie manufacturers Pork Farms have launched the National Board Games Championships to find the UK's King or Queen of the games.

Local micropub The Little Penybont Arms, Penybont Road, Pencoed is urging the local community to take part in the heats, to be held throughout the week of March 14 - 20, to help them find the quickest

player and sharpest mind to represent the pub at the regional finals.

Landlord Gareth Roberts said: "We decided to get involved in the Board Games Championships to raise the awareness of the Micropub Association and support the growing number of micropubs around the country."

The Little Penybont Arms is the only Welsh micropub in the competition.

Winners of the heats will come together for the quarter-finals ahead of the grand final to be held at the One Inn the Wood in Orpington, Kent.

To get involved visit www.boardgameschampionship.co.uk or call 01656 643514.

PARENTS, carers and children from Friends of Oakwood in Maesteg recently enjoyed getting 'Healthy Together' by taking part in a 10-week healthy living programme.

Organised in partnership with Welsh Government-funded Bridgend Communities First and Swansea City AFC Community Trust, the Friends were told of the Change4Life campaign covering diet advice, and through games and activities the programme decoded often confusing issues of health, nutrition and physical activity.

To find out more about Bridgend Communities First opportunities and activities, visit www.commfirstbridgend.co.uk or call 01656 643514.



Brynteg pupils win Mayor's praise for Santa Appeal efforts



ON February 2, Brynteg Comprehensive welcomed the Mayor of Bridgend to the school to thank pupils for their efforts in the Santa Appeal and to present a special certificate of excellence to one of the year-7 pupils.

Councillors from BCBC who had previously attended Brynteg had been so impressed by the efforts of the Brynteg Comprehensive school pupils over the past 21 years with the Santa Appeal, that they spoke directly to the Mayor, who contacted the school requesting to visit and thank pupils personally.

The Mayor was delighted to also present a year-7 pupil, James Alexander, with a special certificate of excellence in recognition of his personal efforts in raising money for the Santa Appeal.

The school has also been nominated by Coun

Hailey Townsend for the High Sheriff Award this year, in recognition of its contribution to the local community over the last 21 years of the Santa Appeal.

Routes into languages

ON February 5, Brynteg Comprehensive School's five new language ambassadors were invited to Cardiff City Hall to receive training for their new and exciting role.

The event is hosted by 'Routes into Languages' and attended by over 20

other south Wales schools. Pupils were given key speeches by organisations such as the European Commission and Alliance Française, as well as by students from Cardiff University currently studying languages at degree level.

Brynteg Comprehensive School's new language ambassadors left the event with new ideas to help them promote language learning and encourage Brynteg pupils to consider studying languages.

Free ukulele lesson!

IF you'd like to learn to play the ukulele go along to the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl, from 10am - 3pm on Saturday, March 12 when the Porthcawl Ukulele Band will give a free lesson as part of National Learn To Play Day.

Those who want to take it further will be welcome at the band's regular Wednesday club meeting at the Green Acre Motel, North Cornelly and will receive tips and advice from experienced club members.

No bookings are required: simply turn up on the day and an instrument will be provided.

(National Learn To Play Day is a UK-wide event run by the Music Industries Association (MIA) and Music For All charity.)

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PUPILS' CLASS ACT FOR PENCOED PENSIONERS!

Past and present pupils united at coffee morning!



Local pensioners are welcomed to Pencoed Primary School for a St David's Day coffee morning.



A GROUP of pensioners went back to school after being treated by young pupils from Pencoed Primary to a special St David's Day coffee morning.

With Age Cymru having been selected by the children as their chosen charity this term, the pupils were keen to invite some of Pencoed's most senior residents into their school hall. The visitors – many of whom had been former students at the school – were entertained by a concert which showcased the pupils' talents before having a chance to enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Suzanne Sarjeant, Pencoed Primary School's headteacher, said: "Working with family members and the local community is a priority for us as a

school. It was fantastic to see the hall full of local visitors who seemed to get so much out of the morning."

Also present for the coffee morning were representatives from Age Cymru, Pencoed Pensioners, Glanffrwd Care Home, Pencoed WI, Read to Dogs, Open the Book, and the Goldies Cymru charity who brought the morning to a fun conclusion by leading a good old fashioned sing-song.

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's Deputy Leader, said: "What a wonderful idea by Pencoed Primary pupils to open their doors and welcome the older generation into their school. It's so important to treat older members of our community with the respect they deserve and I am sure that the pupils learned a lot from this experience."

FRIENDLY TIMMY IS SO LAID BACK!

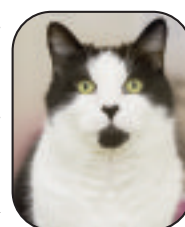
TIMMY is an eight-year-old neutered male who came into Cats Protection Bridgend's care through no fault of his own.

Timmy is a lovely, friendly, laid-back cat who enjoys having lots of fuss and attention. He has lived with children and babies and is very

calm around them.

Timmy hasn't lived with other pets, but isn't too worried about feline visitors to the garden, so may settle down with other cats with slow and careful introductions.

For information on the adoption process, address and opening hours, visit www.bridgend.cats.org.uk or call 01656 726621.



TIMMY.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...

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There's also advice from an award-winning architect about how to create the perfect orangery as well as examples of installations that have taken place

across south Wales.

To ensure you get the information you need quickly, the website is mobile-friendly, so you can browse it on your iPad, tablet or smart phone.

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Lions collect for charity and also tidy up litter



Porthcawl Lions ready to collect for the Marie Curie charity and preparing to go on the cleanup. Photo by John Cosson.

AT the end of February, Porthcawl Lions had a busy weekend: on the Friday and Saturday they were in John Street collecting for Marie Curie and raised over £600.

The terrible weather, particularly the very high winds, deposited a vast amount of rubbish along the coast, so club members decided to organise a clean-up of the boardwalk on the Sunday.

The future is also looking just as busy, as the book sales in John Street are due to start at the end of March and the Sunday car boot sales at Porthcawl rugby club in April or May.

Then there are the May fair and the classic car show and vintage fair. More information will be appearing around the town or local press. Information about Porthcawl Lions is on its website Porthcawlions.org.uk

JOHN COSSON

Floral Arrangement Society

ON Wednesday, March 16 at 7.30pm at Awel-y-Mor Centre in Porthcawl, a flower demonstration by Ruth Milton-Jones entitled 'Feeling Fruity' will take place.

Doors open 6.30pm, everyone welcome.

Choral Society fashion

PORTHCAWL Choral Society are hosting a fashion show by Samantha B in the Y Centre, John St, Porthcawl on Friday, March 18 at 7pm in aid of the choir.

Our choir members are volunteer models for the evening. Tickets are £5 which includes a glass of wine.

The next concert 'All in an April Evening' will be on April 1 in Trinity Church, Porthcawl at 7pm. As well as items by the choir, Meirir Davies and Bethan Thomas will be singing several duets. Tickets £5 include a Welsh cake and soft drink.

New members are always welcome in all parts at our rehearsals on Mondays from 7.15pm to 9.15pm in Trinity Church. For more information call 784211.

PUTTING ON YOUR DANCING SHOES...



Next Sunday, March 13, at 6pm, students at the Sarah Burnell School of Dance will be taking to the stage at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl for their annual show, this year entitled 'Put on Your Dancing Shoes'.

The evening will include jazz, tap, lyrical, contemporary and musical theatre numbers. There will be performances from the school's 30 finalists from Dance World Cup Team Wales 2016, and also performances by the school's successful performers from the All England Dance Championships 2015. Finally, there will be special performances by former students who have gone on to work in the world of theatre and dance. For tickets, telephone Jo on 07823 443699.

(PHOTOGRAPH by MANDY THOMAS @
www.mandythomasphotography.com)

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We are preparing the plans for the scheme that are due to be submitted to Bridgend County Borough Council in Summer 2016.

We want to hear your views to help us shape our proposals to the benefit of your local economy, environment and community.

Hoffem glywed eich safbwyntiau. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn paratoui cynlluniau ar gyfer datblygiad cyflogaeth gynaliadwy hyd at 71,441 metr sgwâr o arwynebedd llawr swyddfa a diwydiant math B1, B2 a B8, ar dir yn Brocastle, i'r de o Ystad Ddiwydiannol Waterton, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Rydym yn paratoui'r cynlluniau ar gyfer y cynlluniau a fydd yn cael eu cyflwyno i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn haf 2016.

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To find out more, drop into one of our public consultation events:

Wednesday 16 March 2016 between 3pm and 8pm

at Bridgend Town Council, Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend, CF31 1EF; and

Friday 18 March 2016 between 3pm and 8pm

at Treoes Village Hall, Nant Canna, Treoes, CF35 5DE

Email: brocastle-bridgend@arup.com

Telephone: 029 2047 3727 ask for Natalie Queffurus

www.brocastle-bridgend.co.uk



I ddarganfydd mwy, ewch i un o'n digwyddiadau ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus:

Dydd Mercher, 16 Mawrth 2016

rhwng 3pm ac 8pm

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Dydd Gwener, 18 Mawrth 2016 rhwng

3pm ac 8pm

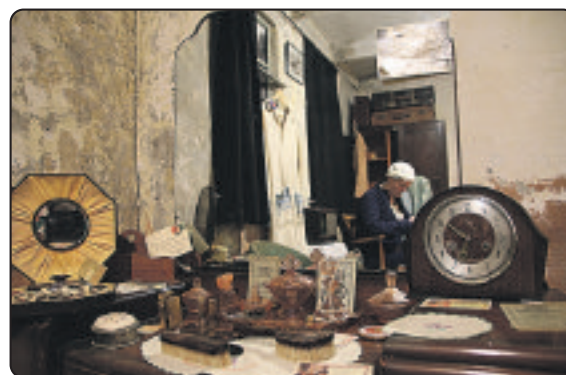
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HUNDREDS OF VISITORS ATTEND OPEN WEEKEND ON WORLD WAR 2



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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LAST weekend, the Hut 9 Preservation Group staged the first of its 2016 events at the site of the former Second World War Camp at Island Farm, Bridgend and received over 450 visitors.

The site of the famous 'The Welsh Great Escape' from this former World War Two German prisoner of war camp is sealed to visitors for much of the year, but twice annually the locked doors of the hut from which this famous escape was made are opened to allow hundreds of visitors a rare look inside this famous building.

Members of the Preservation Group and over 50 living historians dressed in period uniforms gave talks and guided tours inside the hut. A number of World War two military vehicles were also on site.

Brett Exton, the group's treasurer, gave illustrated talks on the history of the site, and Richard Williams, the group's vice-chair, told visitors about the work the group has done since its formation in 2012.

Every penny donated by visitors to these special openings is spent on improving the visitor experience.

In the last year, under the guidance of group member Wayne Gill, the group has renovated a nearby derelict building to convert it into a visitors' centre and this building now contains a re-creation of the night that 70 Germans escaped through a tunnel dug from one of the rooms in Hut 9.

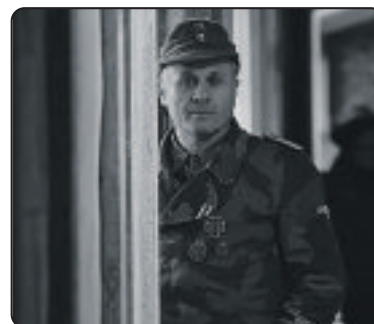
A replica guard tower has been constructed, and historians were on hand to tell visitors about the history of the site, from its occupation by female workers at the nearby ordnance factory to its housing of hundreds of German prisoners of war.

Also on display were dozens of wall paintings made by the occupants over 70 years ago. A replica NAAFI café, staffed by volunteers, provided refreshments, while group member Stel Anthony recorded the memories of visitors who remembered the site in its heyday.

The group's chairman, Dr Jonathan Hicks, told The GEM: "We were delighted at the high number of visitors to the site, and the comments made on our preservation work from people of all ages. This Open Weekend was fully booked up months in advance, and our October 2016 opening is already fully booked, which gives some idea of the scale of public interest in this site. I am now taking bookings for our 2017 events."

Donations to the Hut 9 voluntary group, which is seeking to assure the future of the site, are welcomed and allow the group to make even more improvements to the building and surrounding area.

To reserve a place on the Hut 9 tours on March 11 and 12, email Dr Hicks at: bookings@hut9.org.uk. Details of the tours are available via the group's website: www.hut9.org.uk.



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TWMPATH RAISES £1,000 FOR UGANDA CLASSROOM

Diane Day from Barry receives her 'best Welsh hat' prize from Deputy Mayor, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, with consort, Mrs Jayne Norman and Jane Hutt AM looking on

ST David's Day was celebrated in style when supporters of Vale for Africa held their 'Twmpath for classrooms' event at Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major.

Over 80 people danced the evening away accompanied by well-known local ceilidh band the Thingumijigs. The event was a great success and raised over £1,000 for the construction of a classroom in Pomede, Uganda.

Event organiser Sian Tesni commented: "We're really delighted. The turnout has been



excellent and everyone's had a great time. We're truly thankful to all those people that have kindly contributed both their time and gifts. Most especially we're grateful to our supporters who

have given so generously for such a worthy cause."

Vale for Africa works with its sister organisation TOCIDA in the Tororo district of Uganda to improve healthcare, education and library services through local fundraising and direct support for projects.

Active supporter and former Chair of the organisation, Ted Arbutnot explained, "The classroom block in Pomede is well under way, but it was in need of a financial boost to move towards completion. I'm certain that with what we've raised tonight we can complete the task".

Aside from the dancing, those present

were treated to a traditional Welsh cawl, Welsh cakes, local Welsh cheese and biscuits. There was also a bottle of champagne prize for the best Welsh hat and a range of raffle prizes generously donated by Vale for Africa supporters and local sponsors including: Cardiff and Vale College, Farmer's Pantry Butcher Shop, local restaurants Il Vesuvio and Illtud's 216.

The new Chair of Vale for Africa said: "This has been a great team effort and great fun too. I wouldn't be surprised if we make it an annual event. I would like to thank in particular the efforts of the three students from Atlantic

Wanted: sighted guide volunteers

GUIDE Dogs Cymru is seeking volunteers to train as sighted guides; the scheme, entitled My Guide, matches volunteers with people who are blind or partially sighted, to increase their mobility, confidence and independence.

They take simple trips together, such as walking to the shops or a club.

Identifying the right volunteer is vital, and care is taken to get the right match of personality and interests.

Successful candidates receive specialist training in practical sighted guiding to enable them to form a successful, confident partnership. The qualification can be added to a CV.

An older lady, who lives near the Princess of Wales Hospital, would love to be able to go out on Mondays and Fridays for country walks and trips to the gym but, because of her deteriorating eyesight,



Denise Doyle enjoys a quiet stroll along the promenade with sighted guide Irene Davies.

she needs a sighted guide. A female volunteer who shares her Christian beliefs would be ideal.

Other clients, male and female, whose interests range from football to shopping, are also awaiting guides.

Steve Kersley, of Guide Dogs Cymru, said: "Volunteers say they get great satisfaction from helping a visually impaired person to become more mobile, and they learn new skills that they can apply in daily life. These transfer well to the workplace, and the qualifications can be added to a CV."

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Welsh business owner Phil Powell agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers, and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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'Local MP failing to 'mirror' constituents' views on the EU'

- CLAIMS VALE COUNCILLOR

A VALE councillor has said local MP Alun Cairns is failing "to mirror" his constituents' views by deciding to vote to remain in the European Union.

Coun Kevin Mahoney said Mr Cairns had previously expressed Euroscepticism, but his voting record in Westminster contradicted that view.

Mr Cairns told The GEM that giving people a say on EU membership was a manifesto pledge which the Conservatives had delivered, and that although he had reservations about EU

bureaucracy his over-riding concern was the uncertainty Brexit would cause the UK economy.

Coun Mahoney, who was UKIP's candidate in last year's general election but left the party when there were plans to bring in candidates from outside Wales for the Assembly elections, said: "Alun must be disappointed to learn of the recent national report indicating that the Vale is in the top section of European Union sceptical constituencies in the UK following on from UKIP coming top in the Vale at the most recent EU elections."

"It's disappointing that he appears to be failing to mirror

by GEM
REPORTER

his constituents' views on such an important matter and perhaps we can now see an end to his previous pretence to being an arch European Union sceptic given his now wholehearted support for a Remain vote."

Mr Mahoney added: "My opposition to the European Union doesn't really need to go any further than the sheer undemocratic fact that we don't vote in the European bureaucrats who are now making an estimated 70 per cent of laws that govern our lives and we can't vote them out either."

"Many people are unaware that the only democratically elected part of the European Union, the Parliament, is unable to propose or create any legislation whatsoever, it is all generated by unelected European Union officials."

"Only an economic illiterate could claim that getting just half your yearly contributions to an institution back and then being told that it is 'a grant' is a good deal! "I'm more than prepared to personally give Alun Cairns and David Cameron as many personal financial grants as they wish as long as they first give me double the money that they require back. I'm fairly confident that they

won't be taking advantage of my offer!"

Mr Cairns explained: "In the 2015 General Election I stood on a manifesto commitment to deliver a referendum on EU membership, we have delivered on that promise. Voters in the Vale and across the United Kingdom will have the opportunity to make their decision on June 23rd 2016."

He added: "I am no fan of the European Union and the bureaucracy it imposes. After careful consideration however, I have decided to vote to remain as I believe an exit would lead to uncertainty at a critical time for our economy."

CHARITY'S CALL

THE Music in Hospitals charity is calling on the public to help it win a £50,000 Lottery windfall.

It has taken live music into hundreds of care homes, hospices and hospitals across Wales to "bring the joy of live music to individuals who would not otherwise have access to it outside of a concert hall."

Recent concerts in the area have included visits to Milsom House Care Home and Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home in Barry, Llandow Hospital, College Fields Nursing Home in Penarth, and the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Residential Home in Porthcawl.

A spokesman explained: "This

work has led to us being selected by the National Lottery to tell our story to thousands of people across Wales via a short film (that was broadcast on ITV Wales last Friday). We also have the chance to win a £50,000 prize to enable us to reach even more concerts for care home residents in mid Wales."

The public can vote for their preferred project to win in Wales, either online or by post by midday on Sunday, March 13.

To vote for the Music in Care Homes project to win £50,000, visit: www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk/project/s/view/music-and-memories. Watch our ITV appeal here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eee70kP62DU.

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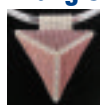
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Hail, Caesar – and all hail the Coen brothers!

GEORGE CLOONEY must either love the Coen brothers, or they have some information on him he's dying for them to keep quiet.

After all, why else would one of

Hollywood's most suave and dashing leading men be so happy playing bumbling idiots for the siblings?

Having notched a hat-trick with *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, *Burn After Reading* and *Intolerable Cruelty*, Clooney re-teams with

the Coens for *Hail, Caesar*. Clooney plays leading man Baird Whitlock, whose kidnapping from a film set is one of many headaches studio head Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) is having.

Coupled with Whitlock's disappearance, Eddie has to handle a director (Ralph Fiennes) struggling to deal with a new star (Alden Ehrenreich), a starlet with a baby problem (Scarlett Johansson) and twin sister gossip columnists desperate for the scoop (Tilda Swinton) amongst other things, all the while pondering a change of career...

Hail, Caesar is a film that could only be made by the Coen brothers. Amid the multitude of connections and echoes of their previous films, there is that woody sense of some semblance of a story unfolding at its own relaxed, leisurely pace.

This isn't everybody's cup of tea, of course; for all the

mainstream attention *No Country For Old Men* garnered several years ago, the Coens aren't filmmakers who bend their will to suit an audience, much rather tell the stories they want to tell in the knowledge their fan-base will welcome their latest offering.

Their penchant for self-referencing continues here; not only are there hints of *Barton Fink* in terms of the way they take on Hollywood of the late 1930s/early 1940s, but there are also nods to *The Big Lebowski* in not one, but two beautifully-executed song and dance numbers, while the character of Eddie Mannix is a collection of previous Coen lead characters.

Much like their funnier, less-dramatic works, *Hail, Caesar* shares a woolly story where not an awful lot happens, but what does happen keeps you engrossed and entertained. When the characters don't hit home, you get the likes



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

of *Burn After Reading*, when they do, you get *The Big Lebowski* – and this is far closer to the latter than the former.

Whether it's Ralph Fiennes' hilarious director, Alden Ehrenreich's scene-stealing cowboy-turned-leading man, Channing Tatum's dancing and prancing Burt Gurney, Tilda Swinton playing twin journalists, Scarlett Johansson's bawlsy aquatic star, or even the smaller turns from the likes of Jonah Hill and Frances McDormand, the characters, and performances, are all hugely entertaining.

The brightest light shines on Brolin and Clooney – and the former is more than up to the task, a man with the weight of the world on his shoulders and yet who manages to stay just above it all, despite the pressures. Brolin showing just the faintest hint of vulnerability behind Mannix's hard outer shell.

Meanwhile, Clooney's character is another Coens' idiot who can't quite keep up with what's going on, always just behind the beat. It's a character Clooney has perfected playing for them, but here Whitlock isn't quite as memorable as his other creations.

Dripping with a glamorous sheen redolent of the period, the brothers (along with director of photography Roger Deakins) make it a wonderfully visual film, both in the likes of the aforementioned song and dance numbers (Channing Tatum is surely months away from a *Guys and Dolls* remake) but also in their recreation of biblical epics such as the *Hail, Caesar* of the title and schmaltzy Westerns starring Ehrenreich's cowboy.

Whether such a loosely-hung story will do anything to persuade any not versed in the Coens' universe to jump in remains to be seen, and those who are immune to their charms will find little appeal here; however, for the rest of us there's plenty to savour in this delicious, none-more-Coen outing – *Hail, Caesar* indeed!

VERDICT: A shaggy-dog story that makes for a thoroughly

entertaining film, *Hail, Caesar* is atypically Coen – and all the better for it. With a number of wonderful turns, its woody charm won't convince naysayers, but those who can't get enough of the Coens and their twisted world view will find plenty to savour.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Inherent Vice* (2015), *Barton Fink* (1991).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery number D921.

● **£2,000:** 782824.
● **The rollover was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 734052, 133645, 724249, 609597, 833987, 843056, 309281, 465593, 499749, 197486, 618796, 735594, 496708, 138025, 145222, 768673, 526033, 122630, 306096.

● **£5:** 237113, 700562, 204928, 753183, 349369, 891253, 840663, 455078, 559254, 489280, 736573, 105007, 219297, 673848, 375007, 725985,

834959, 130340, 383913, 208257, 182328, 323181, 655387, 499539, 689616, 728767, 644096, 159752, 543514, 732355, 404938, 542666, 315457, 702540, 297993, 855871, 830298, 711873, 558295, 899519, 277251, 748089, 233709, 661321, 607018, 697595, 440223, 616130, 895455, 622271, 499736, 751942, 741665, 675609, 148974, 897049, 824373, 001362, 1040057, 1930670, 1984976.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Beyond the Border festival

BEYOND the Border International Storytelling Festival returns to St Donat's Castle in the Vale on July 1-3 with three days of stories and music from Wales and across the world.

"Our 2016 festival will offer more stories and more experiences than ever before," says artistic director, David Ambrose.

"Epic stories from India, blacksmith tales from around the world, Celtic myth from Wales and Ireland, ancient

Greek legends... from transformation tales for adults to fairy tales for kids, there really is something for everyone."

The festival is also renowned for food, arts and crafts stalls, an acclaimed real ale bar, workshops and competitions, open mic stages for budding tellers, a brand-new kidzone with stories and activities just for children and street theatre.

Full details and how to book tickets can be found on www.beyondtheborder.co.uk

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First solo exhibition by young artist

VALE artist Peter Kettle's first solo exhibition at the Albany Gallery, Cardiff which opened last week, runs until March 26.

It includes a wide range of Welsh landscapes in a distinctive style. Of particular interest to GEM readers are the eye-catching mixed media paintings of the Glamorgan coast, in particular Dunraven Bay: Tide coming In, Ogmere Estuary: Merthyr Mawr, and Porthcawl: Billowing Clouds.

Now aged 28, Peter Kettle, whose parents live in Llyswoyney and whose father, after a

long career as a school chaplain and teacher, now takes charge of the parishes of Colwynston, Llandow and Llyswoyney – first started painting at the age of 17 and became a full-time artist in 2014.

He established his first studio at his parents' home at Moat Farm, Llyswoyney in a disused milking shed. For subjects in his current exhibition he followed the River Taff from Cardiff to the Brecon Beacons and drew on the landscapes of the industrial past.

He was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Royal Cambrian Academy.

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2016 Vale Festival of Music programme is announced

DETAILS have been announced of the 2016 programme for the Vale of Glamorgan Festival of Music which will take place from May 10 – 20.

Founded by composer John Metcalf (MBE) the festival continues to hold a unique place in the UK, being the only celebration of its kind devoted to performing the work of living classical music composers.

Over ten days, music by 22 living composers from across the world will be showcased by an exceptional lineup of home grown and international artists.

The 2016 programme will include specific profiles of the work of three major composers, who this year celebrate landmark birthdays:

American composer Steve Reich, described as

one of only a handful of composers who can claim to have altered the path of musical history, celebrates his 80th birthday.

Renowned for his powerfully evocative works, Latvian Pēteris Vasks will be 70 this year. His richly expressive output is deeply rooted in Latvia's folk tradition.

The festival's artistic director, John Metcalf celebrates his 70th birthday. His most recent opera *Under Milk Wood* (2014) met with great critical acclaim and was shortlisted for both a Royal Philharmonic Society award and International Opera award.

Many of the composers whose work is featured will be attending the festival, including Pēteris Vasks whose new viola concerto will be performed by Maxim Rysanov and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales on Friday, May 20.

Royal Welsh College of Music graduate, Mark David Boden, will have two works premiered: *Ghlyll*, a piece for orchestra inspired by Mark's walks in the Lake District (BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Thursday, May 12) and a string quartet, *Forgotten Time* which will be performed from iPads by the Belgium-based Quatuor Tana.

Other international visitors include the world renowned Latvian Radio Choir who open the festival

at St Augustine's Church, Penarth on Tuesday, May 10.

Denmark's Ensemble MidtVest mark artistic director John Metcalf's 70th year in a concert featuring a range of his chamber works at All Saints' Church on Wednesday, May 18.

From Canada, violinist Pamela Attariwala and tabla player Shawn Matiwetsky bring their unique blend of Western and Indian musical traditions to the Dance House at Wales Millennium Centre on Thursday, May 19.

This year's festival includes a number of players who will be well known to south Wales audiences.

Cellist Alice Neary and Robert Court (organ) join the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and singers from BBC National Chorus of Wales for John Metcalf's Cello Symphony on Friday, May 20.

Alice will also be appearing alongside viola player Matthew Jones in a concert of 'Music and Silence' at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major (Wednesday, May 11) which includes an exploration of meditation techniques and mindfulness as they affect the process of listening to music.

Robert will be very much on home territory when he performs organ works by Pēteris Vasks at a luncheon concert at St Augustine's Church, Penarth on Wednesday, May 18.

Violinist Madeleine Mitchell makes a welcome return to the festival as soloist for Guto Puw's violin concerto with BBC National Orchestra of Wales (Thursday, May 12).

The festival presents concerts at venues across the Vale and Cardiff, each chosen for their setting and atmosphere.

Events will be taking place in Penarth's All Saints' Church, St Augustine's Church and Penarth Pier Pavilion, Ewenny Priory Church, St Illtud's Church (Llantwit Major) and BBC Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff Bay.

Two new venues this year are BayArt Gallery (Cardiff Bay) and the Blue Room at the Dance House within the Wales Millennium Centre.

The latter is a fitting venue for the concert by Pamela Attariwala who incorporates into her performances movements specially developed by a specialist Bharata Natyam, choreographer, which allows her to dance and play simultaneously.

Supplementing the main concerts are a range of pre-concert talks with performers and composers offering further insight and context to the works being featured.

Full details of this year's programme can be found on the festival's website: www.valeofglamorgangemfestival.org.uk.

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'Wales is wonderful' says Brazilian prizewinner

THE winner of a competition to promote studying English has travelled all the way from Brazil to the Bay to study at Cardiff and Vale College.

Karol Cavalcante was one winner among millions of potential competitors of the English is Great competition in her native Brazil. Winners win short scholarships at English language centres across the UK.

"I'm a musician so I made a video in which I sang and explained why I should be able to come here and what English means to me," Karol explained.

"It was very exciting and it's very exciting to be here – it's my first time outside of Brazil."

Karol spent a week in an English for International Students (EIS) course at CAVC's City Centre Campus on Dumballs Road, then a week in another school in west Wales, before travelling to Llangollen as part of her prize.

"My classmates here at Cardiff and Vale College are for the most part Spanish and it's interesting to listen to the different accents," Karol said. "It is a challenge for me but when they heard I was from Brazil, they all wanted to know so much about my country and

culture and they are very kind."

During her stay, Karol has been staying with a local family: "My host father is from India and my host mother is French, so I have been having contact with a lot of other cultures while I am here," she said. "It's wonderful to find out about other parts of the world here in Cardiff."

"Wales is wonderful. Everything is wonderful; every place I have visited has been amazing. I love Wales – I even love the weather."



Karol Cavalcante

First woman head at Cathedral School

Mrs Clare Sherwood, new headmistress.

CATHEDRAL School in Llandaff, Cardiff has appointed its first woman Head, Mrs Clare Sherwood, since it was founded in 1880.

Current headmaster Stephen Morris will become principal of St Edward's College, Liverpool in September, after eight years at Llandaff.

Currently deputy head (academic) at Blundell's School, Devon, Mrs Sherwood was educated at Hereford Cathedral School, and progressed from there to read history at Pembroke College, Cambridge, where she held a choral scholarship, captained her college teams in netball and ladies' cricket, and played ladies' football and rugby.

She trained as a history teacher at Bristol University, and is a serving school inspector with the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Mrs Sherwood is married to Simon, a fellow teacher and musician; the couple have three children: two sons (ages 12 and six) and a daughter (aged nine).



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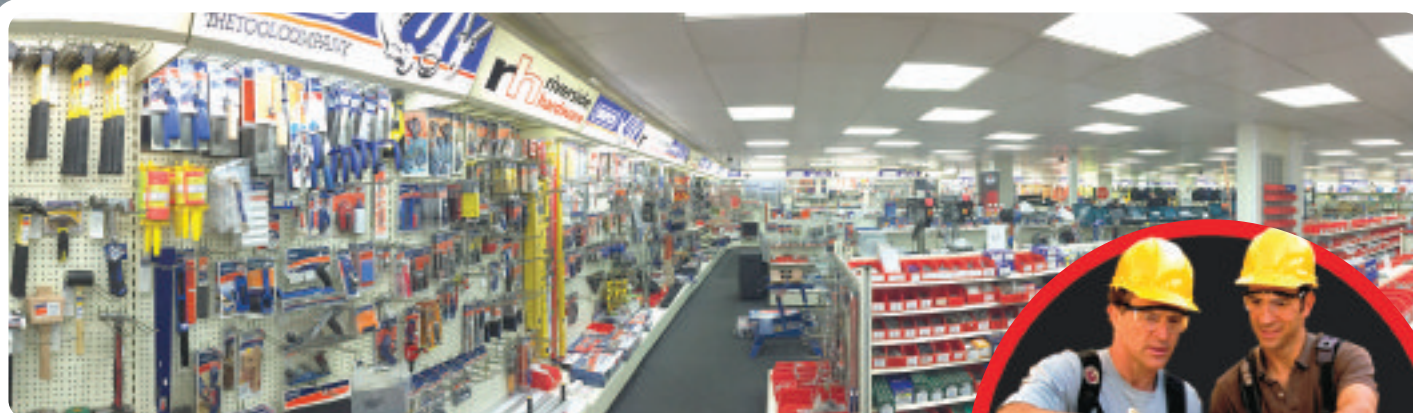
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'Farming businesses vital to rural economy' – SAYS NFU CHAIRPERSON

THE chair of the Glamorgan National Farmers' Union (NFU), Abi Reader, is planning a campaign in the

near future to highlight the importance of farming to the general economy in rural areas.

Among the events that

are planned is a repeat of a successful experiment last year when local farmers headed off to London to spend time at an urban primary school – an event that attracted a great deal of

attention.

The idea, of course, was to let city dwelling children get a better idea of where their food comes from.

She will also be one of many farmers supporting Open Farms Sunday. This year the date is set for Sunday, June 5.

At the moment, however, she is planning an event at her own farm, where the farming community will gather to demonstrate just how vital agriculture in Wales is for the rural economy.

Abi told The GEM: "Government figures predict average Welsh

farm income will decline by 16 per cent for the year to March 2016, which is bad news for farms.

"It is also very bad news for the businesses we deal with regularly. Farmers support a wide and diverse range of rural businesses, which in turn provide work and opportunities for local people."

To make this point Abi has invited a large number of businesses her farm deals with regularly – there are 50 of them – to come to the farm as a sign of solidarity to show how much they rely on each

other. She said: "These businesses will be either local or national but with local representatives. I have also invited politicians to come along and see this message being given first hand."

"I have people we have dealt with for years willing to tell their story about how they are also struggling as a result of this farm income crisis."

"They rely on farmers for their business and are having to deal with long term customers who suddenly can't pay their bills. They in turn are struggling to pay their own bills and staff."

She continued: "I am also going to highlight farmers' importance to the wider society by inviting past and present farming and veterinary students to the farm to show how they have benefited from training here."

"I cannot highlight enough how important I think this story is, and I want GEM readers to know about it."

"Farming is the cornerstone of the rural economy and when we struggle, so do other businesses. Their voice deserves to be heard."

Abi is hoping that the event, which is in the final stages of planning, will be widely reported. Vale readers can certainly look out for a report in their GEM!

Puss in Rhooose

PUSS in Rhooose is a licensed, family-run boarding cattery ideally located in the centre of Rhooose.

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Our pens are built to FAB and CIEH standards, constructed from

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Each unit has a secured run and fully-insulated sleeping quarters, with its own light, heater and thermostat.

Hygienic disposable cardboard scratch boards, warm bedding and toys are supplied, but owners are welcome to bring their own to help their cats settle in.

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KEEPING pets will keep you healthy, walking your dog keeps you mobile and active, also keeping your blood pressure regular.

Even feeding your pets keeps you active, as they depend on you – they cannot help themselves.

If you are not very mobile, stroking a cat or dog has a calming effect and helps to lower blood pressure.

Children brought up in a household with pets seem to suffer from fewer allergies than those without animals. Animals can help stimulate those suffering from dementia, and autistic children become very relaxed with pets.

People in retirement homes love to see a cat or dog visiting; some older people may need company if living on their own, and a cat is perfect for this.

It has been proved that owning pets keep you fitter, more active and live longer.

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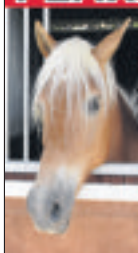
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In early pregnancy it can go undetected, but is seen as barren ewes at scanning or empty ewes at the end of lambing. In late pregnancy, abortion is more obvious with dead lambs being produced.

In sheep, infections are a common cause with enzootic abortion and toxoplasma being the most common. Late pregnancy abortions are easy to test; the dead lambs and placenta can be sent off for testing, but what about the early losses?

Flock Check and Barren Ewe Check are sponsored blood tests offered by MSD Animal Health. This means we

can blood sample six to eight barren or aborted ewes to check for toxoplasmosis and enzootic abortion at a reduced rate.

Barren ewes and abortions are a significant financial loss so finding the cause is worthwhile, and effective vaccines are available for both enzootic abortion and toxoplasma.

Sheep can be brought to the practice for blood sampling at a cost of £2.50 per ewe, contact the practice for details of the drop-in clinics we are running this year or to make an appointment.

We can also help with which are the most suitable animals to sample. Like us on Facebook to keep up to date.

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IT'S National Pet Month from April 1 to May 2 and your chance to show the special creature in your life just how much you love them!

The charity holds the event each year. The aim is to promote responsible pet ownership, make the public aware of the benefits of pets and the contribution they make to our society, as well as letting owners know about the pet services available to them.

Each year, a host of pet-tastic events are held, from dog shows to fairs and perfect pet competitions!

At the National Pet Month website, www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk/ you can find out about everything happening in your area, and you can even register to put on an event of your own.

You can also find out more about the great work of the charity at the site and make a donation or become a sponsor.

All the money goes towards bringing together animal welfare charities, pet businesses, youth groups and pet owners, to improve the welfare of pets.

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

NEW MICROCHIPPING LAWS SET TO START IN THE NEXT MONTH

VETS have launched a campaign to help dog owners understand and comply with a new law regarding dog ownership.

In just one month, from Wednesday, April 6, all dogs aged eight weeks and over in the UK will be legally required to have a microchip.

Statistics show approximately 1.8 million dogs still do not have a microchip in the UK, but 80 per cent of the pet dog population does currently comply with the new law.

To help dog owners check if their dog has a microchip, vets are increasing awareness of the new law and

helping owners understand more about the legal requirements.

Dr Huw Stacey, director of clinical services at Vets4Pets, said: "In just a few weeks' time, tens of thousands of dog owners could be breaking the law and facing a fine of up to £500."

"But pet owners shouldn't worry about microchipping their pet."

"It is a simple procedure."

"A microchip is about the same size of a grain of rice and is

injected under the skin at the scruff of a dog's neck."

"Each microchip has a 15-digit code which is unique to the pet and can be read through a special scanner."

The new legislation is designed to prevent illegal breeding of dogs, bring owners to account for a dog's aggressive behaviour and reunite lost pets with their rightful owners quickly.

Microchipping is also carried out on other pets, including cats and rabbits.

JG Plant has got the power!

JG Plant has some experience in business – 50 years to be precise – and it has recently been given a boost through a new management team, who are extending the company's already comprehensive range of stock.

The business was bought 12 months ago by Inscapes, an established sports ground engineering organisation, turf supplier and landscaping specialist, and the two Bridgend businesses now trade from the same site on the Brackla Industrial Estate.

JG Plant, who have the agency for New Holland Tractors, also supply a host of major names, including Honda and Krone, for work in the agricultural, horticultural and construction sectors.

They supply new and used machinery, and also have equipment available for hire.

Two new dealerships that JG Plant are excited about is Honda Power Equipment, and Honda Lawn and Garden. They will be carrying a range of Honda generators, water pumps, lawn mowers and spare parts.

The equipment can all be maintained by JG Plant's service department, and a special offer is running until July (see the JG Plant advert on this page).

The combined expertise of Inscapes and JG Plant mean that you can find the answer to your problems – be

The benefits of Raw Pet Supplies

RAW Pet Supplies opened on November 1 2013 and carries the largest variety of quality raw pet foods in Wales.

A spokeswoman explained: "We have a 1,300sq ft warehouse in Rumney, on the east side of Cardiff and currently have 17 extra large commercial display freezers, plus additional storage, which enables us to hold more than 10 tonnes of frozen raw food."

"Our shop is open to the public to browse and buy from Wednesday to Sunday."

"The team was originally just Claire the owner/director and her three German Shepherds, but now includes much-needed help from her family and Annette."

Raw feeding / B.A.R.F. (Biologically Appropriate Raw Food) is about feeding pets the food their bodies are designed to digest.

The spokeswoman said: "In the wild, your pet would survive by hunting, killing and eating whole animals (prey). This diet would be nutritionally complete for their needs. In order to

mimic this as closely as possible, when feeding a raw diet, we aim to aim to feed 80 per cent meat/muscle, 10 per cent bone and 10 per cent secreting organ."

"This being said, raw feeding does not have to be gruesome or bloody and much of the raw food we sell is in user-friendly packaging."

"Raw feeding is not about feeding whole dead animals if you don't want it to be! Due to its growing popularity, it is now very civilised!"

Some benefits of a

raw diet are less poo; less doggy odour; less shedding and a brighter, shinier coat; fresher breath; cleaner teeth; less itching/allergies and less hyperactivity.

There are currently free consultations and advice on how to get started.

Drop an email to the company, along with a contact number, and they will get back to you: info@rawpetsupplies.co.uk

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The salon is also open plan, so you can see how much your pet enjoys their grooming.

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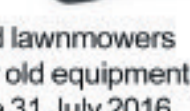
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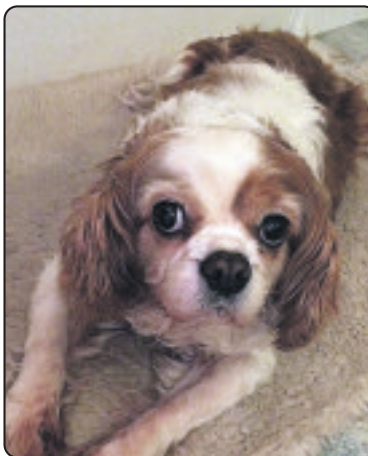


*Natty dresser
Tommy Trousers
is the apple of
Carolyn's eye.*

WHERE would we be without our beloved pets? A lot less cheerful and healthy perhaps.

Here are some of the GEM staff members' best friends. There isn't just something delightful about them, they give us a thousand times more than they take!

If readers would like to send in good quality images of their pets (no prizes, just for fun) we'd like to publish them. Add in a relevant detail for a caption. Email: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.



Wendy's King Charles spaniel Grace.



Sophie and Sasha, Jan's cats, are the best of friends.



Cocker spaniels Max and Buster, Tim's dogs, have just celebrated their first birthday.



Dannii has a dog Moby, and a cat Arya who love to cuddle up.



Gillian's colourful fish Brutus, Cassius and Julius.



Sue's dog, Dexter (right) is the best pal of her mum's dog Archie.



Tasha Keiko – Don's cat – mistress of all she surveys!

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Care leader says 'new spirit of partnership' needed as he welcomes positive Well-being Act

by GEM REPORTER

A social care leader believes there are outdated attitudes towards private companies providing services for vulnerable people.

According to Mario Kreft, the Chair of Care Forum Wales, which includes 500 independent care organisations, outdated attitudes are blighting the sector at a time when the need for collaboration and partnership has never been greater.

He is due to raise the issue at a meeting of the Five Nations group today, March 10, which represents social care

providers from the four home countries and Eire.

Among those attending the conference at St David's Hotel in Cardiff will be the Welsh Health Minister, Prof Mark Drakeford, and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira.

Mr Kreft said: "Unfortunately, there is a significant degree of unfair institutional prejudice against the independent sector here in Wales and elsewhere in the UK and Ireland.

"There are still many people who appear to resent the fact that independent providers need to be financially

viable to stay in business and provide high quality services. I was talking to a nurse recently who left the NHS and joined a very reputable private sector organisation and already she feels her former colleagues are treating her as if she had gone to work for a second class organisation.

"It is just intolerable that people working in social care and providing such important services are not better valued.

"We really should learn from the no-blame culture of the aviation industry, where people truly work in partnership to make sure planes

don't fall out of the sky.

"We need a new spirit of partnership so the independent sector can work with the NHS, local authorities and other partners to get things fixed."

Mr Kreft said he had some optimism for the future.

"The Social Services and Well-being Act which comes into force on April 6, is a positive development in Wales and provides a glimmer of hope that the corrosive prejudice against the independent sector that pervades social care can be overcome - so that we can build relationships and support best practice within the sector."

PUPILS CELEBRATE ALL THINGS WELSH ON SAINT DAVID'S DAY!



A CELEBRATION of all things Welsh was in full force at Gladstone Primary School on St David's Day, March 1.

The playground was a sea of red as children and staff dressed up in Welsh costumes, Welsh rugby shirts and anything else red. The home task this year was to design and make a Welsh dragon and the school has been inundated with the most spectacular dragons which are proudly on display in both school halls.

In the afternoon, it was time for the traditional eisteddfod, where the children celebrated with

singing, Welsh folk dancing and listening to the school musicians. Winners of art, handwriting and poetry competitions for each year group were also announced.

The eisteddfod ended with the Chaining of the year-6 Bard, Maia Sullivan, followed by the Welsh national anthem.

"The sense of pride on St David's Day at Gladstone is amazing. Thank you to all children and staff who made the day such a pleasure and to the children who put so much time and effort into their home tasks and eisteddfod competition entries," reported Helen Reilly, the deputy headteacher.



Vale of Glamorgan roadworks report

Work at Junction 34 Miskin interchange; A4050 Port Road, from junction with Culverhouse Cross to its junction with Nant Isaf, Wenvoe.

Temporary traffic control: Nash Manor to Pentre Meyrick and B4265 Ewenny to Floodgate roundabout, Llantwit Major; Ruthin Road, Ruthin; A4055 Harbour Road, Barry (the Causeway); A4055 Harbour Road (bottom of Ship Hill); Paget Road, Barry Island at its junction with Clive Road and Plymouth Road; Mill Road junction Turnpike Close, Dinas Powys; St Brides Road, Wick (adjacent to the new development).

Road closure: Clive Road, Barry Island at the junction with the access road to Barry Island overflow car park; Solent Road, Barry.

Penarth Local History Society

A TALK entitled 'What the Postman Saw' will be presented by David Salter at 7.30pm on Thursday, March 10 at the All Saints' Church Lesser Hall, Penarth. New members are always welcome.

On Monday, March 14 a recital by Kathryn Rees Peak (harp) and Rebecca Warner (cello) will take place between 1pm - 2pm. Free entry; bring your own lunch! Tea/coffee provided.

Marie Curie breakfast

A MARIE Curie breakfast is taking place at St Andrew's Major Golf Club this Friday, March 11, from 8.30am until 2pm.

All proceeds will go to the charity. Everyone welcome, full breakfast - 'eat as much as you want' for £4.50.

Freephone number leads to Samaritans' call increase

THE number of people calling the Samaritans' helpline has risen by 15 per cent since the charity launched its free helpline number, 116 123, in September 2015.

This means around 5,000 more people are calling the helpline every month.

The organisation is launching awareness-raising campaigns in 10 pilot areas across the UK, with radio and poster advertising, particularly targeting people in the lowest socio-economic groups, who can be at a high risk of suicide. The two pilot areas in Wales are Cardiff and Neath Port Talbot.

The executive director for Wales, Sarah Stone, said: "We are delighted that more people are now able to contact us, at any time, every day of the year, for whatever they are struggling with, without having to pay call charges.

"We want to encourage more people to call us if they are going through a difficult time. Our volunteers are experts in listening and can help you talk through your concerns, worries and troubles.

You don't have to be suicidal to call us.

"Samaritans campaigned long and hard to make the helpline number free to callers. The subsequent increase in callers underlines the fact that some people found the cost of calls a barrier to accessing our service when they need us most.

"Our new campaign is about making sure that as many people as possible are aware that they can now call us for free, from any phone."

The Big Lottery Fund supported the launch of Samaritans' free helpline service and is providing funding for the new awareness-raising campaign in Neath Port Talbot and Cardiff.

Last year, Samaritans' 21,000 volunteers responded to 5.3 million calls for help, by phone, email, text and face-to-face.

Sarah Stone added: "Everyone has moments in their life where they struggle to cope and for some this can lead to feeling hopeless and losing sight of being able to work through their problems.

"We know that talking can really help people to see a way through and we would encourage anyone who is struggling to call Samaritans."

Young Farmers go head-to-head

JUNIOR members of Glamorgan Young Farmers' Club went head-to-head on Saturday, February 27 at Neath Conservative Club for the coveted title of Junior Member of the Year.

Competitors aged between 10 and 17 had to submit CV and personal statement, then give a presentation based on their experience gained in the last 12 months and answer questions.

There were five competitors representing three of the county's seven clubs. The high standard led to a strong contest for first place.

Judge Delme Harris, from Pembrokeshire, said: "It's great to see that Glamorgan has a wealth of young and enthusiastic members. Based on the high standard of competition I saw today, these youngsters each have a bright future in front of them."

The Glamorgan YFC Junior Member title went to Rhian Hutchings (16) from Neath YFC, closely followed by Bridgend YFC members Nick Rees in second place



Glamorgan YFC Junior Member of the Year, Rhian Hutchings, Neath YFC.

and Beth Granville in third.

Rhian will now go on to represent the county at the Wales YFC Junior Member competition in Wrexham in March.

For more information on Glamorgan YFC contact county organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, by e-mail glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk or telephone 07779 331839.

You can also visit www.glamorganyfc.co.uk and follow @GlamorganYFC on twitter or like the 'GlamorganYFC' page on Facebook for regular updates.



GET YOUR GREENHOUSE READY FOR THE GROWING SEASONS...

MAKE the most of the first sunny day to give your greenhouse a good clean if you plan to start sowing seeds soon.

A clean greenhouse means plants will be less vulnerable to pests and diseases and, if you zap them now, your undercover growing area won't become a breeding ground for nuisances.

Before you start, take out as much as you can and turn off the power to electric points, covering them to stop any water splashing them.

The best tools for cleaning the outside are a good hose and a long-handled soft-bristled brush for tackling the roof glass, using a large sponge.

Give it a good rub to remove algae and, if panes overlap, use an old plant label to ease out the dirt and then rinse the area with a hose. Replace cracked or

by **HANNAH STEPHENSON, PRESS ASSOCIATION**

broken panes or get a professional to do it if you don't feel confident.

Clear greenhouse gutters, removing soggy leaves and debris which could end up in water butts or block your drains. Get a long-handled brush to get rid of the rubbish before it enters the downpipes.

Once the greenhouse is empty, give the floor a really good sweep and get rid of clutter like broken pots, out-of-date feeds and other junk.

Wipe down surfaces with a scouring sponge and wash flower pots and seed trays with disinfectant before thoroughly rinsing and returning to their place in the greenhouse.

Horticulturist Frances Tophill, co-presenter of ITV's *Love Your Garden* and guest speaker at the forthcoming Edible Garden Show in Warwickshire, says: "The art of a good greenhouse is to have a more or less constant temperature.

"In the winter, a heater might be required or a little bubble wrap on the glass. Plants will suffer most if their foliage is in direct contact with the cold glass, so move them away during the winter months."

"The warmth provided in a greenhouse will help a multitude of insects to overwinter in the warm and come back with gusto in the spring to attack your plants.

"To avoid that happening, give your greenhouse a big winter clean-up, paying particular attention to any standing water where larvae may well be multiplying."

Now is the time to think about growing your early vegetables.

"Early carrots and parsnips (make sure you use

one that is canker resistant) are ideal to start in February," says Tophill.

"It's also a great time to start your garlic and small onions or shallots. If you have the luxury of a greenhouse, then now is the time for growing all your tomatoes, peppers and aubergines.

"Also grow radishes, brassicas and all your peas, including late sweet peas. Now is also the time to get that summer bedding going. So start sowing cleome, dahlias, ricinus (castor oil plant), snapdragons and cerinthe."

Many plants just need the protection of a frost-free environment to germinate, so can be grown in a non-heated greenhouse or in a cold frame.

"Some seeds actually need a period of intense cold known as stratification before they will germinate. So it is all a matter of looking at your seeds, reading the packets carefully and treating them accordingly.

"If you only have a non-heated greenhouse, I always find a windowsill in the kitchen works a treat!"

The Edible Garden Show, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, runs from March 11-13. Visit www.theediblegardenshow.co.uk

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK:

- Water trees, shrubs and climbers in containers if the weather is dry or windy, especially evergreens.
- Prick out or pot up pelargonium seedlings that have grown from seeds sown last month.
- Apply a top dressing of gravel or chippings to the rockery to suppress weeds and ensure alpine don't become waterlogged.
- Bring strawberries in containers into the greenhouse for early fruit.
- Prune half-hardy fuchsias being kept under cover as soon as the pink 'eyes', or embryo shoots, appear.

Gardeners cop a helping hand!

TWO local PCSOs this week chipped in to help ValePlus clients work on their new vegetable garden.

Staff and clients have been developing their garden, with the help of a grant from ASDA's Community Fund, to grow more vegetables to supply their Cafe No 5 in High Street, Barry.

Owain and Ash from South Wales Police helped with heavy lifting and digging, helping the local charity stay on target to complete the garden before the growing season. ValePlus and Cafe No 5 provide training opportunities for adults with learning difficulties.

For more information on ValePlus and its work contact 01446 746691 or check out the website at www.valeplus.org.uk.

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75th anniversary marked at 372 (Barry) Squadron



The band of 372 Squadron in 1969.



372 Squadron at RAF St Mawgan in 1967.



372 Squadron on the Memorial Hall steps in 1941.

Senedd VIP tour for RAFA branch



Barry RAFA branch was welcomed to the Senedd by the Vale AM.

BARRY branch of the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) was given a VIP tour of the Senedd on Friday by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

"RAFA promotes the welfare of all serving and former members of our Air Forces, their spouses and dependents together

with the widows and widowers and dependents of those who died while serving, or subsequently," she said.

"I was delighted to welcome the branch to the Senedd; the charity does an excellent job supporting the RAF family and it is extremely helpful to liaise with them regarding the needs of veterans," she added.



372 Barry Squadron at the Menin Gate, Belgium in 2015.



Inspection of 372 Squadron by the Earl of Plymouth on June 13, 1941.

RECENTLY, 372 (Barry) Squadron reached its 75th anniversary since formation on February 12, 1941, under the command of Flight Lieutenant William Bassett.

Thousands of young men and women have passed through the doors since the Squadron was formed; to experience the wide range of fun activities and educational training on offer; which has helped to develop their character.

The squadron nowadays, has over 30 cadets. The aims of the Air Training Corps are still the same today as in 1941: "To promote and encourage among young men and women, a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force; it seeks, to provide training that will be useful in the services and civil life. It fosters the spirit of adventure and to develop the qualities of good leadership and citizenship".

Flight Sergeant Jake Paterson (18) has been a member of the squadron for the past five years. Jake said: "I got to fly a plane before I could drive a car. I have gained many useful life skills over the years, especially to develop my confidence and leadership skills; which have helped me improve as a person. I would not be the person I am today if I hadn't joined 372 Squadron".

Corporal Tash Gill (15), who has been a member for two years, said being a part of the cadets has given her the opportunity to take part in lots of different activities. Amongst her favourite memories are travelling to Belgium in

2014 to commemorate the 100th anniversary since the start of the First World War and to Poland in 2015.

Tash said: "You get to make many new friends because you're always involved in different competitions and camps. You gain confidence, discipline and respect and also learn how to take charge of certain situations."

"Here you can experience many different activities you wouldn't find anywhere else – these memories and experiences stay with you forever."

"It is a privilege to command this fine squadron with such a wealth of history. There are many ex-cadets who have enjoyed their time with the squadron and have experienced many exciting opportunities throughout their time."

The Air Cadets also undertake flying, gliding, shooting, sports, adventure training, team building exercises, expeditions, field craft training, project work, volunteering, UK and overseas camps, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 Squadron, welcomes young people aged 12-17 and parade 5th Barry Scouts on Everard Street, Barry.

Monday (7.30pm-9.30pm) and Wednesday (7pm-9.30pm). You can also contact or text the Squadron on 07486 501864, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information about becoming an Air Cadet.

CPR training for Assembly chiefs



David Melding has CPR training.

DEPUTY Presiding Officer, David Melding, recently welcomed the British Heart Foundation to the Assembly to conduct basic CPR training.

He reported: "I fully support the British Heart Foundation's campaign to train as many people as possible in CPR. This basic training has given me the confidence to perform CPR should the need arise."

"I think it is important that all secondary schools take part in the campaign and contact the British Heart Foundation Cymru for a basic CPR training pack".

BARRY AIR CADETS GO ON AN ADVENTURE IN RURAL VALE



AIR CADETS from 372 (Barry) Squadron, travelled locally to St Donats in the Vale of Glamorgan for a day of exciting and challenging adventurous training.

This training walk was designed to prepare the cadets for their forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh expeditions; with training in navigation, team building, first aid and understanding the country code; while following the Heritage coast and enjoying the cliffs, foreshore, nature reserves and ancient churches

The walk itself was of moderate difficulty, 10 kilometers in distance which included local tracks and paths through Monkash, Marcross, St Donats and Llantwit Major. The cadets saw the physical remains of the monastic grange in Llantwit Major, St Donat's Castle and Atlantic College, Nash Point lighthouse, Holy Trinity Church Marcross and St Donat's Church.

Adventurous training forms a very important part of the cadets' training. Rigorous training on the squadron covers: teambuilding, leadership, mountain craft, camp craft, safety

training and navigation before going on the hills. Squadron training then complements and encourages cadets to explore and appreciate the 'great outdoors'; to improve confidence and fitness, learn new skills and ultimately provide enjoyment mixed with excitement.

Cadet Oliver Fudge said: "We all had a great day out, learning about navigation, teamwork and safety training as we prepare for our expeditions later this year."

Cadets taking part were: Alex Cheesley, Rhian Horton, Jamey Pengilly, Zena Poulakis (with Hendrix), Tash Gill, Sean Hodges, Shannon Stait, James Jelinski, Rhys Horton, Gethin Lodge, Oliver Fudge, Jenna Day, Dominic Bushell and Dan Broadbent, Steve Hughes and Glenda Gill.

372 Squadron welcomes all young men and women between 12 - 17 years old. The Squadron parade at 5th Barry Scouts on Everard Street, Barry. Monday evening 7:30pm - 9:30pm and Wednesday evening (7pm - 9:30pm). Contact / text the Squadron on 07486 501864, email oc.372@aircadets.org or www.372squadron.org for more details.

VALEWAYS GUIDED WALKS

ON Saturday, March 12 at 10am Destination Dyffryn Gardens meets at Tesco car park in Barry on Port Road.

To discover the Springtime Views of Valley and Coast meet at 1.30pm on Tuesday, March 15 on Dinas Powys common opposite Twynceyn.

The same day at 2.30pm the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Llantwit Major town hall car park. The Strollers meet on Wednesday, March 16 for a walk in Cosmeston Country Park; start from the visitor centre at 10.30am.

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...

There's lots more online....



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www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

ESU cheque will aid orphans in Uganda

LADY Inkin, vice-chairman of the South Wales English Speaking Union recently presented a cheque to Mr Harvey Jones of Ty Cariad, Africa.

The ESU is an educational charity which aims to promote global understanding through the English language. Funding the purchase of books for a children's home and school in Uganda, which Ty Cariad supports, is a step towards fulfilling this ambition.

The Ty Cariad Africa charity raises funds to support the work of VCCP - Ty Cariad, and other projects helping orphans and vulnerable children in sub-Saharan Africa.

The aim is to relieve poverty, sickness and distress and to provide access to education.

Harvey Jones said: "We are delighted to receive this cheque, which will be used to purchase reading books and other resources for this project in Uganda. During a visit made by Jan Thomas (retired head teacher and trustee of Ty Cariad Africa) in January this year, interviews were held, and Juliette Mirembé was offered the job."

"Following an introduction to the project, staff and children, she spent time with Jan Thomas planning the way forward. Her role is to develop early communication skills at the Ty Cariad home and improve English skills with those pupils identified as weak or non-readers at St Kizito junior school."



Non-violent way to resolve conflicts

IF BELONG to a group of people who are learning to practice non violent communication (NVC), sometimes called compassionate communication.

The method is based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg and is recognised worldwide as being valuable in conflict situations. It teaches us to listen to ourselves and others with compassion and then to respond, without judgement or blame.

It is useful in many areas of life including family relationships, work settings, voluntary organisations and in prisons.

The practice group is looking for new

members. A core group has been meeting together for about seven years, on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

If anyone would like to come along and give it a try, please call 029 21153074, or email sheilacollins@talktalk.net. The group has given me support through many painful life situations and whenever it is used, NVC creates opportunities for change, healing and reconciliation.

For more information about this approach, see the book Nonviolent Communication by Marshall B Rosenberg and a Youtube DVD entitled 'Nonviolent Communication Workshop'. Sheila Collins, Barry.

PACT meetings

CASTLELAND - Meet your local officers at Morrisons' Barry 1pm - 3pm on Saturday, March 12 and 10am - 12 noon on Saturday, March 19.

CADOC - Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry 11am - 1pm on Thursday, March 17.

LLANDOUGH PACT - The Royal British Legion, Cogan Pill Road, Llandough on Monday, March 14 at 7pm.

Easy as Pi?

YOUNG learners across the Vale of Glamorgan are being urged to go out and discover uses of Pi, one of the world's most iconic maths theories.

Monday, March 1, Pi Day Cymru sees people of all ages involved in activities that will inspire them to embrace more uses of maths in everyday life.

Wales has a unique claim to the maths phenomenon that started in 1706, when William Jones from Anglesey was the first person to use the Greek letter π or pi to represent the

mathematical constant which allows us to measure the circumference and area of circles.

Now, young learners across the Vale of Glamorgan are being encouraged to start planning activities and challenges to get involved in the day themselves, whether it be through going out and discovering uses of Pi in their local area or sharing their own plans for the day on social media using #PiDayCymru.

To find out more about Pi Day visit: <https://www.facebook.com/beginnsathome> or follow @edubeginnsathome.

What's on and where in the area?

New church ideas sought

BARRY Uniting Church invites the public to view ideas for a new community and church building at Barry Waterfront Centre, next to the Waterfront Medical Centre on Saturday, March 12.

Caroe and Partners, architects, will be sharing their ideas for the new building that will support a range of community activities. Go along and share your thoughts.

Drop-in sessions will run from 11am to 12 noon and 1pm to 2pm. All welcome to stay for a bring and share lunch from 12pm - 1pm.

Councillors' surgery DYFAN councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will hold a ward surgery in Highlight Park Community Hall on Saturday, March 12 from 10am - 11am. No appointment necessary.

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any council issues or concerns. Couns Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan William, Nic Hodges and Shirley Hodges will be at The Community Room, The County Library, King Square, Barry from 11am until 12pm on Saturday, March 12. No appointment necessary.

Diabetes event THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group will meet next on Tuesday, March 15 in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth at 7.30pm - 9pm.

The speaker will be Dr J Platts, Consultant Diabetologist who will speak on national diabetes developments in 2015 and plans for 2016. It is also our AGM.

All welcome!

St Hilary events

ON Tuesday, March 15 at 10.30am in the village hall, a spring coffee morning will take place with tea and cakes.

Tickets available on the door, or in advance from church members.

National Trust members meet

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members and volunteers' next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16 at 7.30pm in The Duke of Wellington, when Paul Busby will speak on 'Tredegar House'.

New members are always welcome, come and join! New committee members will be sought at the AGM in April.

Age Connects advice sessions

IF you own your home and are looking for information and advice on Equity Release, Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an informal advice session on Tuesday, March 15 from 10am - 12pm at the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

A Bower Retirement Services consultant will be available to chat on this subject. No appointment necessary.

Age Connects run a free monthly legal advice session at the Senior Health Shop. If you are over 50 and worried about a legal matter other than criminal law, come along a have a chat. A session will be held on Tuesday, March 15 from 10am to 12pm.

If you live in the Vale and need advice on Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Housing Benefit or Disability Living Allowance (excluding private pensions), a session is being held on Tuesday, March 22 at the Senior Health Shop from 9.30am to 11.30am. Home visits can be arranged; contact 01446 732385 for further information on any of the above.

Gentle exercise

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale holds 'gentle movement to music'

sessions for older people (or less able of any age) at All Saints' parish church, Southerndown.

The aim is to help increase and maintain flexibility, mobility and suppleness. New members welcome at any time of the year; no joining fee, just pay as you go.

For full details, contact Shirley Dodd-Clark on 01446 751077; 07990 976160; shirleydadc@aol.co.uk or www.extendinthevale.com.

Atal y Fro coffee

DOMESTIC abuse charity Atal y Fro will deliver a talk on healthy family relationships, with particular regard to the older generation, at their coffee morning on Wednesday, March 23 at Golau Caredig extra care facility in Barry starting at 10am.

This is open to all people of any gender who would like to attend.

Pensions advice

CITIZENS Advice Cardiff and Vale, which is organising advice sessions in the area, has face-to-face Pension Wise appointments, and says people would find it easier to understand their pensions if the industry used simple, standard language to describe their products, instead of jargon.

To book a free, face-to-face or telephone Pension Wise appointment, call 0300 330 1001 or visit www.pensionwise.gov.uk.

Rossway bazaar

ROSSWAY Methodist Church Ladies' Circle (Court Road, Barry) is holding a spring bazaar on Friday, April 1 at 1.30pm.

Stalls will include Nearly New and jumble, tombola, books, and refreshments. Free admission; all proceeds to charity and to the church.

Choir concert in Barry

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, invites the public to attend the Choirs of Barry concert on Friday, April 15 at St Helen's RC Church, Wyndham Street, Barry at 7pm, featuring Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir and Barry Community Choir.

Tickets (£6) are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA. All proceeds go to Tŷ Hapus and MNDA Cardiff and Vale, nominated charities of the Mayor. Contact 01446 704921 or e-mail juliehurst@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Dylan Thomas Day

FOLLOWING the success of International Dylan Thomas Day in 2015, the second annual celebration of Wales' most famous literary son takes place on May 14.

It will include a variety of activities across the world, including all the key locations associated with the poet: New Quay, Laugharne, Swansea, London, New York and, this year, Cornwall, where a plaque will be unveiled for 'Dylan's Corner' at the Ship Inn, Penzance.

There will be a number of online events, the third Dylan's Great Poem and the International Dylan Thomas Prize 2016 award ceremony, in collaboration with Swansea University.

For further information, contact Literature Wales on press@literaturewales.org or call 029 2047 2266.

Crime and cream

A few tickets remain for the Crime and Cream Tea event hosted by Griffin Books at Holm House Hotel in Penarth, on March 17. Beginning at 2.30pm, two thriller writers will talk about their latest books and answer audience questions. Tickets £15 include a cream tea, cake and a signed copy of one of the authors' books.

Final kick deals Barry seconds a harsh defeat



ABOVE: Chris Chucas in action, while RIGHT: Owain Poole breaks through the St Joseph's defence.

PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE.

ON the same day when the first XV tackled the league leaders, Barry second XV entertained their own division's leaders, St Josephs.

The omens were not good, as this was a slick side which had dealt the hosts some heavy defeats in the past.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were further hampered by numerous players unavailable for selection, although they were grateful for the return of Chris Chucas at full back and Curtis Miller appearing on the bench.

Playing up against the slope and the elements, Barry started ferociously, hoping to catch the team from the capital off guard. After being successful from an early catch-and-drive from a line-out, Barry were awarded a penalty within kicking range, but Ashley Adams was unable to deliver the three points.

Undeterred, the hosts probed for another opening and following numerous St Josephs infringements, the home side found themselves camped on the five-metre line.

With the lineout expertly executed, an unstoppable rolling maul was formed and John Miles was on hand to crash over for the opening try. Joel Williams added the extras.

Barry should have kicked on and put their opponents to the sword, but instead fell foul of the referee's whistle with a spate of penalties, allowing the visitors territory and possession that they did not waste.

Within the space of five minutes, the score was 10-7 to the visitors following two quick unconverted tries.

With captain Williams and Rhys O'Sullivan particularly vocal about their side's indiscipline, Barry improved



especially after the introduction of Miller.

Focusing their energy on breaking down a stubborn St Josephs defence instead of attracting the attention of the referee's whistle, Barry reversed the momentum and was duly rewarded just before the break.

O'Sullivan did the hard work by sending numerous defenders tumbling, before Joel Williams capitalised by sauntering through to score in the corner. He was unable to add the extras.

The second half was a cagey affair as the game was broken up further by the penalty count. Barry should have increased their lead when the visitors were down to 13 men, but a disallowed try from Adams was as close as they got.

When Barry themselves were down to 14 men in the last quarter, St Josephs laid siege to the home line in search for the winner.

Heroic defending, with some bone-crunching tackles from Remy Frenay, Rob Williams, Owain Poole and most memorably Chucas, kept the visitors away, and it seemed that Barry had weathered the storm as Adams returned to the fray.

Unfortunately this was not the case as Barry lost possession to give the away side one last attack, and home indiscipline meant the concession of a penalty within kicking distance.

This time the league leaders made no mistake and with the final kick of the game wrestled the

lead decisively away to win the game, 13-12.

Barry second XV return to action after the Six Nations with an away trip to Llanishen on March 26.

Team: Chucas; Russell, Peake, Adams, Bounds; J Williams ©, Mepharm; Hall, O'Sullivan, Ring; R Williams, Case; Frenay, Poole, Miles. Replacements: Turnbull, Miller, Evans. Substitute not used: Forrester. Man of the match: O'Sullivan.

KC

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

AS the VOG League attempted to catch up with the weeks, or months, lost to the weather it was a mix of league and cup action this week.

The Barry Cup quarter finals were finally completed as Cardiff Airport dispatched SP Construction 4-2.

Premier Division Cardiff Airport and Wenvoe Arms were kept apart in the semi-final draw, setting up two mouthwatering games of Premier vs Division One.

Cardiff Airport play the impressive Barry Belgrade while Wenvoe Arms lock horns with high-flying Cogan Coronation. Can a Division One side win the cup again as VIFC did last season?

In the historic ASRS Cup, Premier Division league leaders St Athan were dumped out by Cowbridge Town in this west Vale derby.

The teams played out a 1-1 draw, with Cowbridge equalising with the last touch of extra time, then winning 3-0 on penalties.

In the Supporters Cup Vale United continued their recent fine form with a 4-0 win over FC Pumas.

United set up a semi final with Cadoxton Barry who won 3-1 against AFC Rhose B. United look for a third final in only two years of existence after being runners-up in the Barry and Dockers Cups last season.

Cogan Coronation secured their second semi-final of the season with a 2-1 win over Glenbrook as they await

the winners of Barry Belgrade and Cadoxton Athletic.

In the Dockers Cup, Dockers Reunited must look like the favourites for their namesake cup after an emphatic 9-0 win over FC Pumas B.

The win sees a semi-final against Cadoxton Imps after they advanced ahead of Master Mariner.

Barry Albion edged past Island Marine B 1-0 and will play Knap FC who defeated St Athan B 2-1 in a close contest.

In league action Barry Athletic moved into third place in the Premier Division after a 6-3 thriller against Penarth Town.

Dinas Powys Athletic secured a big three points away to Island Marine while AFC Rhose and Masons Moving Group played out a goalless draw.

In Division One, Sully Sports beat bottom side BVFC for the second week on the spin to move four points clear at the top although the teams below do have a few games in hand.

Tynewydd continued their form since the winter break with a 2-1 victory over Cadoxton Athletic to move into fifth place.

There was only one game in Division Two but plenty of goals - unfortunately for Cowbridge B they were all for Penarth B as they absolutely routed the bottom club 9-0.

This weekend the stand-out game is a huge Premier Division clash between Wenvoe Arms and Cardiff Airport.

HD

TIM'S DOUBLE!

ABERTHIN National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan had plenty to smile about at Huntingdon on Sunday.

Tim, who hasn't had the best of seasons, saddled two horses at the meeting and won with both of them.

The first of them, *Champagne Chaser*, who was racing for the first time in 133 days, landed the All 28 Cheltenham Races On RacingUK Handicap Hurdle, coming home 10 lengths clear of *Vinegar Hill* and the second leg of the double was completed when his *Fields Of Glory* took The Ben Bull 18th Birthday Handicap Hurdle by a neck from *Ivanhoe*.

Both horses started favourites, with *Champagne Chaser* being returned at 2-1 and *Fields Of Glory* at 5-2 and both were ridden by champion jockey elect Richard Johnson.

EVAN'S TAUNTON DOUBLE
Llancafarn's Evan Williams is the leading trainer at Ludlow so it came as something of a surprise that he didn't have a runner there last Thursday.

However, canny Evan sent two horses to Taunton instead and both of them were winners. His 10-year-old *Tornado In Milan*, under Conor Ring, took the Exmoor Trim Handicap Hurdle scoring by two-and-a-half lengths from the favourite *Impulsive American* and his six-year-old *On The Road*, partnered by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the A.W. Rule & Son Gun Makers Ltd Handicap Hurdle by 19 lengths from *Tikkapick*.

Course and distance winner *Tornado In Milan* was a 4-1 chance, and *On The Road* was made a 4-6 favourite.

TIM'S WELCOME WINNER
Aberthyn's Tim Vaughan had a welcome winner at Bangor last Wednesday when his six-year-old *Tanit River* landed the Broxton Gates Handicap Hurdle by 12 lengths from *Quincy Des Pictons* who was ridden by Bridgend's Rhys Flint.

Tanit River, a 11-4 chance, was ridden by Alan Johns and Tim also saddled the third horse home *Noble Galileo*.

LOCAL HORSE'S SURPRISE WIN
Heavenstown, a 10-year-old chestnut

BRIAN LEE

Weather no barrier for local tennis club!



A wet and windy March 1 failed to deter hardy individuals from turning up for the Dinas Powys Lawn Tennis Club's St David's Day tournament.

Although they had to lie in wait in the clubhouse for the expected lull in disagreeable weather, they still managed to fit in three rounds of tennis before returning to the clubhouse to join some 50 members and guests for a lunch of traditional Welsh fare.

Marion Curtis did a marvellous job organising fellow members to prepare and serve cawl and bread rolls, a large

selection of Welsh cheeses, biscuits, and Welsh cakes. A hearty lunch was had by all!

The club captains, Shirley Howman and Mark Jones, would like to thank all those members who helped on the day, and also members and friends alike who came to support the club's annual festivities.

The club will be holding its annual open day on Saturday, March 19. Please come along, see the club's facilities, meet club members and enjoy an afternoon of social tennis.

Refreshments will be served from 11am, please see the club website for further details.

SH

Gymnastic group put in 'Dahlicious' performance!



ON Friday, March 4, gymnasts from Cardiff and the Vale represented Planet Gymnastics Club by performing acrobatic dance routines at the 'Dahlicious' charity ball at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff. The gymnasts performed to tracks from James and the Giant Peach.

The gymnasts who took part (from top left of picture): Lucy Young (Cardiff), Emily Doogue (Llantwit Major), Lucy McGee (Cardiff), Nytaya

Havard (Barry), Ella Payne (Cardiff), Callie Hares (Barry), Seren Kupa (Dinas Powys), Ella Shaw-John (Penarth), Mairwen Thomas (Penarth) and Morven Donahue (Cardiff).

The audience were wowed by a display of strength and agility from such young performers; the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to performing again soon.

The ball celebrated 100 years of Roald Dahl and was organised by Tenevous Cancer Research and Nuffield Health.

RH

Lucky pup's new home in Wales!



Tui at the sanctuary in Chiang Mai.



Tui in her jumper at home in Penmark.



A STRAY mongrel from Thailand is enjoying a new life in the Vale, thanks to two Guide Dog trainers.

Tony and Emily Harvey fell in love with a cute pup they named Tui while visiting an animal sanctuary in Chiang Mai. She was one of 400 dogs that had been rescued from the streets, many destined for the meat crates.

The couple decided to bring Tui to Wales, which meant she faced vaccinations, blood tests and a 25-hour trip by plane, ferry and car. She arrived last week to start her new life with the couple in

Penmark. Emily said: "She's starting to adapt to life in a proper home, so it's like having a puppy again! She has to wear a jumper most of the time as she's used to temperatures of 30-plus degrees. We are very happy to have her, although a little tired from the sleepless nights."

Tui's luck changed for the better when the couple called at the sanctuary in Thailand last summer, on their way back from a three-year stint as guide dog trainers in New Zealand.

The couple were so moved by the plight of the animals that they scrapped plans for a luxury beach

holiday to join volunteers at the sanctuary. They used their guide dog training skills to teach the traumatised animals how to play and relax, even appealing for friends in the UK to send out toys.

They returned to take up full-time posts with Guide Dogs Cymru in Cardiff, where colleagues are looking forward to meeting Tui.

Caroline Viney, head of service delivery, said: "The plight of the dogs in Thailand really touched us because our guide dog puppies have it so good. Tui is one lucky pup."

Marie Curie café supports 300 carers in its first year



Caring for Carers Project Co-ordinator, Sarah Johnson, pictured with carer Maureen Kettley.

A CAFÉ providing support for local carers has celebrated its first anniversary by welcoming its 300th carer for afternoon tea.

The Marie Curie Carers' Café launched at the charity's Cardiff & the Vale hospice in Penarth in March 2015, providing refreshments and talking to other carers about their experiences. She encouraged other carers to come along to the café and take advantage of the support that's on offer.

"Once you get through that door the first time you'll never look back. I think the ambience is quite relaxing; it's a warm, friendly atmosphere and there's people around to offer you support. I think that is what a lot of the people who come here are looking for."

The Marie Curie Caring for Carers in Wales project team hosted a special St David's Day-themed café on Tuesday, March 1, and were delighted to welcome new visitors which extended the number of carers supported to 303 in just one year, a spokesman reports.

Among those people to have been supported at the café is Maureen Kettley from Barry. Maureen has been helping to care for her sister, Annie, who was diagnosed with cancer in November last year.

Maureen, whose parents were cared for at the Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale Hospice, said the café was a 'fantastic' resource for local carers.

"It can be a lonely place when you're supporting somebody, but if I do have a few bad days I know I can come here and there will be people around who I can speak to and who can give me support. There's always a good listening ear here."

"I can speak to people here and I can bring my sister along and she can share things that she may not want to talk about in front of her family."

"You can learn about the services that are available here, like the day therapy unit and reflexology, and you can also get information about other support that is available."

As well as receiving advice and support, Maureen (62), also helps out at the café by

Vale for Africa says thank you for the Twmpath

ON behalf of Vale for Africa, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Twmpath at Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major on March 1, a spokesperson writes.

We had a wonderful evening of dancing to Thingumijigs, plenty of cawl to eat (thanks to chef Tim and to Siân for the vegetarian one), cheese, bread and Welsh cakes. Our heartfelt appreciation to Gaynor and Rhodri Davies, owners of Rosedew Farm, for letting us have the use of their barn for the event. Also, our appreciation to the organising committee (Gareth Kiddie, Sue Bowyer, Tony Woodward, Annette Dobbs and Siân Tesni).

However, our greatest appreciation is to the people who supported the event, donated raffle prizes or money towards the event. We are hopeful that £1,000 was raised towards the building of a classroom in Pomedde, Uganda.

If you would like further information about the Vale for Africa, or wish to volunteer in some way, please contact the chair, Gareth Kiddie, via email on gareth@gka.org.uk.

Ein gwerthfawrogiad yn bennaf am gefnogaeth y pobl ddaeth i'r noson ac a gyfrannodd drwy gynnig gwobrwyon raffl, neu danfon arian tuag at yr achos.

'Rydym yn obeithiol ein bod wedi codi tua £1,000 tuag at ystafell ddosbarth Pomedde, Iwganada.

Os am wybodaeth pellach am yr elusen, neu cynnig o help llaw, cysylltwch gyda'r Cadeirydd, Gareth Kiddie drwy e-bost gareth@gka.org.uk.

FIFTY VISITORS POP IN TO SEE THE VALE MP!



MORE than 50 local people were welcomed by Vale MP Alun Cairns to Parliament last week.

Constituents from across the Vale included Women's Institute groups from Southerndown, Llantwit Major and Llanblethian and students from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.

Mr Cairns (front, right) reported: "I was

delighted to welcome such a wide range of groups and residents from across the Vale to Westminster. We had the opportunity to discuss many issues and I answered questions on a variety of topics."

Velindre plans 'Rockies ride'

MR Michael Clubb the February speaker at Vale NFU Ladies gave a very informative talk on the Second World War Welsh Arsenal at Bridgend which employed over 25,000 girls, women and men.

Mrs Jan Rees gave the vote of thanks.

The AGM followed and Mrs Kay Gay was voted chairperson, Mrs June Studley secretary, Mrs Mary Brown treasurer, Mrs Ray Evans press officer and Mrs

Joan Thomas tea hostess. A charity donation of £300 to Velindre Hospital Trust is to be given to Mr Julian Kelly, NFU secretary who is organising a bicycle ride event in the Canadian Rockies in the near future for the hospital.

Mrs Marion Lewis won the raffle.

The next meeting (as usual) will be held at Penllin Village Hall on Tuesday, March 15, at 7.30pm. New members welcome. **RE**

Call for airport buses review

PLAID CYMRU candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Ian Johnson, has called for a new review of the bus service from Cardiff Airport to Cardiff city centre, after new passenger numbers and Assembly Government subsidy figures were released.

"During five months from March to August 2015, 71,000 passengers used the T9 service but the Welsh Government spent more than £205,000 subsidising the service," said Coun Johnson, who represents the centre of Barry.

Cardiff Airport was a great asset to the Vale, creating jobs and supporting the local economy, but the number of T9 services and its cost should be reviewed.

"If passengers paid £3 extra for their journey – and they're mostly flying to or from Wales and already paying hundreds of pounds for that – then the service would pay for itself."

So why are we unnecessarily subsidising businessmen or holiday makers?"

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LLANTWIT MAJOR £122,500 Elm Lodge, CF61 1BN <small>TWO BEDROOMS, FREEHOLD UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING GAS CENTRAL HEATING</small>	OGMORE VALE £139,995 Park Avenue, CF32 7DH <small>THREE BEDROOM SEMI, CONSERVATORY GARAGE, COMBI BOILER</small>	ST ATHAN £139,995 Lougher Place, CF62 4PX <small>FREEHOLD, THREE BEDROOMS UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING GAS CENTRAL HEATING</small>	LLANTWIT MAJOR £140,000 Maes Illtuds, CF61 2SD <small>TWO BEDROOM, UPVC WINDOWS GAS CENTRAL HEATING, FREEHOLD OFF ROAD PARKING</small>	LLANTWIT MAJOR £270,000 Eagleswell Road, CF61 2UG <small>FREEHOLD, THREE FOUR BEDROOMS WELL KEPT GARDENS TWO RECEPTION ROOMS</small>	LLANTWIT MAJOR £310,000 Boverton Brook, CF61 1YG <small>EXTENDED, FOUR FIVE BEDROOMS, FREEHOLD, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, GARAGE</small>

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- Traditional semi detached house
- 3 bedrooms
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£215,000

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- 4 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Detached double garage
- Large rear garden

£410,000

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- Development site extending to c.0.6 acres
- Part of the site is already subject to outline planning consent for 4 semi detached dwellings

£170,000

AFON GARDENS, BRYNMYN



- Brand new Redrow property
- 4 bedroom detached
- Quality kitchen
- Last remaining plot

£234,995

MALLORY, LLANMAES



- Spacious detached house
- 4 bedrooms with potential to create a 5th
- Bathroom plus 2 showers
- Conservatory

£415,000

MACKWORTH STREET, BRIDGEND



- Mid-Terrace property
- 3 bedrooms
- Private garden to rear
- On street parking

£105,000

GROESWEN ROAD, CAERPHILLY



- Former Farmhouse
- 0.6 acres
- Agreed planning consent

£330,000

PENYLAN COURT, ST BRIDES MAJOR



- 4 bed detached property
- 3 reception rooms
- Detached garage
- Rear garden with open views

£400,000

THE SYCAMORES, LLYSWORNEY



- Detached character cottage
- 4 bedrooms
- Original features
- Large gardens

£500,000

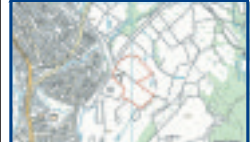
LYNDALE, THE CAUSEWAY, LLANBLETHIAN



- Large detached house
- 4 bedrooms
- Double garage with workshop
- Spacious landscaped gardens

£575,000

CAERGYMRUG FARM, GARTH



- Farmhouse with 10.6 acres
- Planning consent
- Equestrian potential

£189,000

CAPEL CARIAD, COLWINSTON



- Converted Chapel
- 4 bed detached
- 3 reception rooms
- Backing onto farmland

£525,000

OAKWOOD BUNGALOW, LLANMAES



- Large detached residence
- 4 bedrooms
- 3 receptions
- 1 acre

£535,000

IVY COTTAGE, GILESTON



- Detached traditional cottage
- 2 double bedrooms
- Views across to Devon Coastline
- Garage and ample parking

£265,000

VICTORIA ROAD, FLEUR DE LYS



- 2.7 acres
- Detailed planning consent for 20 dwellings
- Agreed 106 agreement

£600,000

LOCATION



Caerphilly

LOCATION



Cardiff

LOCATION



Cowbridge

GREATER COVERAGE, GREATER SUCCESS



Table topping Wales & West Housing

Karen Robinson, Supplements Editor at The Sunday Times, presents the Best Companies Award to Kathy Smart, Chair of the Board at WWH and Anne Hinchey, Chief Executive of WWH.

THE Sunday Times Best Companies 2016 has ranked Wales & West Housing as the top not-for-profit business in Wales for the fifth year running.

The housing association, which manages almost 10,000 affordable homes across Wales – including around 1,400 properties in Bridgend and 600 properties in the Vale – has just been ranked second in the UK's 100 Best Not-For-Profit Organisations to Work For list, moving up yet another place from its UK 2015 ranking and retaining its position at the top in Wales.

Chief executive Anne Hinchey said: "I am incredibly pleased that not only have we been recognised as the top not-for-profit organisation in Wales for the fifth year running, we're also the second top not-for-profit organisation to work for in the whole of the UK."



Airline gives boost to Cardiff Airport

VUELING airline has announced that it will be boosting its services from Cardiff Airport for the 2016 summer season, adding an additional 44,000 seats across its four routes to Barcelona, Malaga, Alicante and Palma Majorca.

It represents a 41 per cent increase compared to last summer, with more than 151,000 seats now on sale for flights between April and October 2016.

The popularity of Vueling's routes from Rhosneigr has also resulted in the early release of winter flights for 2016/17, which are also now available

to book. On a visit to Cardiff Airport recently, Jane Hutt AM joined managing director Debra Barber in the control room and praised staff for their skills, experience and dedication "over a busy weekend".

Afterwards, she said: "I was very pleased to meet the hard working staff at Cardiff Airport. It is absolutely essential that we secure the future of our airport; not only does it support 1,750 jobs, but it is of strategic importance to the on-going success of tourism in Wales."

"I look forward to it playing an ever increasing role in support of the Cardiff Capital Region and the Enterprise zone strategies."

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NEW

MIN-Y-MOR BARRY

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- PARTIAL SEA VIEWS FROM LIVING/DINING RM
- SITTING ROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
- AMPLE DRIVEWAY PROVIDING PARKING
- NO CHAIN
- ER = D

£274,950

NEW

AEL-Y-COED BARRY

- WELL PRESENTED MODERN DETACHED
- CUL-DE-SAC POSITION
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM/CONSERVATORY
- FITTED KITCHEN UTILITY RM
- FOUR BEDROOMS (MASTER ENSUITE)
- PRIVATE ENCLOSED GARDEN
- GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ER=D

£269,950

NEW

PORT ROAD EAST BARRY

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- TWO REC. ROOMS
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ATTACHED BATHROOM
- FABULOUS VIEWS OVER THE VALE
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- DRIVEWAY
- NO CHAIN
- EPC = TEA

£339,950

NEW

GREENWOOD STREET, BARRY

- 3 BED MID TERRACED
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- REPLACEMENT UPVC D/G THROUGHOUT
- VERY WELL PRESENTED
- VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- ER = D

£118,000

NEW

PARK COURT BARRY

- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- FAR REACHING SEA VIEWS
- 3RD FLOOR APARTMENT
- PERIOD BUILDING
- DESIGNATED PARKING
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- ER = C

£118,000

NEW

TRINITY STREET, BARRY

- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- WELL PRESENTED WITH SEA VIEWS
- LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- CONVENIENT LOCATION
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- NO CHAIN
- ER = D

£124,950

NEW

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY

- VERSATILE LIVING
- THREE STOREY TRADITIONAL
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- BEDROOMS
- RECENTLY REPLACED COMBI BOILER
- WELL PRESENTED
- LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
- CONVENIENT LOCATION
- FAR REACHING SEA VIEWS
- ER=D

£185,000

NEW

TAF CLOSE, BARRY

- LINK DETACHED
- CUL-DE-SAC POSITION
- LIVING ROOM AND CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- 3 BEDROOMS
- DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
- GARDENS TO SIDE AND REAR
- UPVC D/G & GCH
- ER = D

£200,000

NEW

COLCOT ROAD BARRY

- BAY FRONTED TRAD.
- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- LIVING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- SUN LOUNGE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- REPLACEMENT SHOWER ROOM
- DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- NO CHAIN
- EPC = TEA

£204,950

NEW

LON FFERM FELIN BARRY

- MODERN DETACHED
- LIVING/DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN/UTILITY RM
- FOUR BEDROOMS (MASTER ENSUITE)
- DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ER = D

£269,950

NEW

LABURNUM CLOSE BARRY

- END OF TERRACE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN/DINER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- GARDENS TO FRONT AND REAR
- PARKING
- ER = D

£109,950

NEW

WOODLANDS ROAD BARRY

- MID TERRACED
- THREE BEDROOM
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAM. BATHROOM
- UPVC D/G-GCH VIA COMBI
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- ER = D

£149,950

NEW PRICE

WINSTON ROAD BARRY

- MID TERRACED
- WELL PRESENTED
- KITCHEN/DINER
- THROUGHOUT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
- OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN
- EPC = D

£96,000

SPACIOUS

MIN-Y-MOR BARRY

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- COLD KIDNEY VIEWS
- LIVING ROOM/CONSERVATORY
- TWO BEDS LIVING RM/CLOAK, SITTING RM
- STUDY, SEP. W.C. BATHROOM
- UPST. FLR. TWO FURTHER ROOMS
- ENSUITE W.C. CLOAK
- NO CHAIN/DRIVEWAY
- ER = D

£269,950

STUNNING

EVANS STREET BARRY

- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- UPVC D/G-ESSEL VIA COMBI
- WELL PRESENTED
- ER = D

£114,950

IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY

DAVID STREET BARRY

- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ER=D

£97,000

YEW TREE COURT, BARRY

- 2 DOUBLE BED APARTMENT
- THIRD FLOOR
- WEST END LOCATION
- BALCONY WITH SEA VIEWS
- GCH UPVC D/G
- VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- ER=D

£105,000

CASTLE STREET BARRY

- MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
- THROUGH LIVING ROOM
- FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- ER = D

£133,950

RUGBY CLUB AMONG THE WINNERS OF BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Representatives from Leadbitter A Bouygues, who built the new Coety Primary School.



Architect David Owen, who worked on the refurbishment of Maesteg RFC clubhouse.



The refurbished Maesteg RFC clubhouse.



Richard Evans from Taylor Wimpey, 'best site agent'.



The 'best small new housing' award went to these two new homes at The Retreat in Nottage, Porthcawl.



The extension of a 1960s style property in Carlton Place, Porthcawl.

THE refurbished clubhouse at Maesteg RFC has won an award in BCBC's tenth annual LABC Building Excellence Awards.

Since a blaze in 2013, the clubhouse has been restored to earn the accolade 'best small commercial building'.

Coety Primary School was named 'Best educational building'; while the new Celtic Court rehabilitation centre in Tremains Road, Bridgend, won two awards. It was named 'best inclusive building', in recognition of it being fully accessible to wheelchair users, while the workmanship helped it pick up the title of 'best public service building'.

Coun Hywel Williams, cabinet member for communities, said: "The LABC Building Excellence Awards are about celebrating excellence from the drawing board to the site. The awards are organised by the council's building control team which carries out 7,000 inspections every year, from checking the foundations of a new house to the steel structures of an industrial project."

The full list of winners in Bridgend County Borough Council's annual LABC Building Excellence Awards is as follows.

THE WINNERS

BEST extension and alteration: The extension of a 1960s style property in Carlton Place, Porthcawl by Mr and Mrs Olding.

Best small new housing: Two new homes at The Retreat in Nottage, Porthcawl, by SP Williams Builders Ltd.

Best large volume new housing: The development of a former brownfield site by Taylor Wimpey to build 56 new homes at Heol Tredwr in Waterton, Bridgend.

Best public service building: The new Celtic Court rehabilitation centre on Tremains Road, Bridgend. The agent was Bridgend County Borough Council's architectural services, and the contractor was the council's Built Environment team.

Best educational building: The new Coety Primary School, which is the third high quality school that Leadbitter A Bouygues has delivered for Bridgend County Borough Council.

Best small commercial building: The refurbishment of the fire-damaged clubhouse at Maesteg RFC. The contractor was Glyn Lee and the architect was David Owen.

Best inclusive building: The new Celtic Court rehabilitation centre on Tremains Road, Bridgend. The building is fully accessible for both staff and visitors.

Best site agent: Richard Evans from Taylor Wimpey, who is the site manager on the development at Heol Tredwr in Waterton, Bridgend.

Special planning award: Two new homes at The Retreat in Nottage, Porthcawl, by SP Williams Builders Ltd.

Award winners will now compete against others from across the region in the South Wales Local Authority Building Control Awards at the Vale Resort on Friday, April 29 before, hopefully, proceeding to the national awards later in the year.



The new Coety Primary School.



Taylor Wimpey's new homes at Heol Tredwr in Waterton.



The extension of Mrs Olding's home in Carlton Place, Porthcawl.



ABOVE: Mr and Mrs Williams – the winners of the 'Best small new housing' award – with the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough.

LEFT: The Celtic Court rehabilitation centre in Tremains Road, Bridgend.

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Pencoed undone by clinical Bonymaen

RIGHT: Rhys Thomas crosses the whitewash for Pencoed; it was in vain, however, as they lost 34-21 to Bonymaen.

ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Rhys Clarke was also on the scoresheet for Pencoed.



DESPITE a good second half performance, Pencoed were down to this 34-21 defeat against Bonymaen at a windswept Parc Mawr.

The home side opened the scoring with a converted try from Joe Milland before Adam Williams opened Pencoed's account with a penalty goal.

Pencoed then took the lead for the only time in the match, as interpassing between scrum half Rhys Clarke and Tom Cross saw the full back race over wide out.

Bonymaen soon regained the lead with a penalty goal, and increased their lead to 17-8 when following a quick tap penalty they broke clear down the touchline before the home flanker took the inside pass to go over for the converted try.

Williams replied with a 40 metre penalty goal. Dan Watkins and James Tredray then combined well at the lineout for Pencoed to take play into the home 22 but despite a couple of chances for Pencoed the score remained 17-11 at the interval.

Cross put his side into the home 22 early in the half with a well measured grubber kick with the Bonymaen full back happy to put the ball out at the corner flag.

The introduction of replacement prop Christian Powell appeared to galvanise the Pencoed scrum and the home side were put under pressure at the set piece for the first time in the match.

This platform set up the next Pencoed try, outside half Marc Davies feeding centre Rhys Thomas with a short pass and Thomas picked a good angle to split the Bonymaen defence to score halfway out.

Despite another

dominant scrum within their own 22 Pencoed conceded a third converted try and now trailed 24-16.

Pencoed full back Cross then did well, breaking away from his own 22 under pressure to counter some 60 metres before the scrambled defence of the home side snuffed out the raid.

Cross, who was having a fine match, then raced back to clear his lines, before the Pencoed pack overturned possession at the scrum; unfortunately this was to no avail as the home side soon got their fourth try with the conversion taking the match scoreline to 31-16, soon extended to 34-16 with a further penalty goal.

To their credit Pencoed hit back. A break from fly half Davies split the home defence and No8 Aaron Halse, supporting Davies on the outside, raced over wide out.

Pencoed finished the match well and perhaps were a little unfortunate to leave Parc Mawr without a league point.

There were stand-out performances for Pencoed from Cross, Halse, Powell, and young Dan Watkins, the current youth forward, taking the Pencoed man of the match accolade with a fine all-round game.

The next scheduled league match for Pencoed is home to Ystalyfera on March 26, where a win is paramount.

A talented Pencoed under-15s side moved through to the Ospreys Cup final with a comfortable 45-22 semi-final win over Resolven.

They will meet Bryncoch in the final following the Neath Valleys' side's win over Bridgend Athletic in the other semi-final.

The club would like to take this opportunity to wish our lads the best of luck in the final. TR



Sports under-10s hunt down the Treorchy Zebras!

IT WAS the turn of the Zebras of Treorchy to visit Newbridge Fields to play Bridgend Sports under-10s, who had in the week previous despatched the Badgers of Pontyclun.

The Sports quickly set about the task of defeating Treorchy and they were soon off to the perfect start by winning the toss. Treorchy set themselves up to defend and prevent the home team from moving the ball quickly.

The Zebras, efforts stifled a series of Sports attacks as early runs from Dewi Worrall and Ieuan Pilliner were brought to a halt. An infringement at a ruck gave the Sports a penalty. From the penalty, Mackenzie Dent took play deep into Treorchy territory; good recycling from the latter player's drive gave Joel Rogers a split second advantage, and he did not need a second invitation to slice through the remaining defenders for Bridgend Sports' first try.

Both sides then competed well in the tackle and ruck area which resulted in large parts of the first period being played in the middle sections of the pitch. Both sides wanted to move the ball but the final pass was spilled on a number of occasions to restrict the score.

Dewi Worrall snapped the ball up at the breakdown to supply ball for Mackenzie Dent, who found space out wide to run in from 15 metres for the home team to take a 2-0 lead.

Great defensive work from Harri Williams brought the Treorchy restart to a halt to present the Sports with possession and a number of phases of play were put together but were to prove fruitless as the Sports were penalised for holding on to the ball at the ruck.

Treorchy looked to have found their way through the defence but a final tackle from Tom Chick denied the Zebras a scoring opportunity for the first period.

Two further 10 minute periods of play followed, and both periods ended in a 1-1 draw. The Sports took the lead in both periods, Joel

Rogers scoring the home team try in the second period only for Lew Thomas to bring the scores level for Treorchy.

Treorchy then resorted to a more defensive and physical approach to slow the ball down to disrupt any quick ball. Their indiscipline cost them as such tactics serve to galvanise the Sports youngsters these days and they turned the negative tactics into an energy source in the final period.

Starting with the ball in the final period, Sports' Joel Rogers was determined to strike early and blitzed the defence with his pace but unfortunately strayed over the touchline.

Treorchy attacked from the restart but each attack was brought quickly to a halt with solid tackling from Callum Lewis, Dewi Worrall, Harri Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner and Cian John.

It wasn't long before Mackenzie Dent powered over for a score for the Sports, only for Lew Thomas from Treorchy to level the score in the final period. The Sports ran out deserved winners by four tries to two, or 20 points to 10.

Newbridge Fields is becoming a bit of a stronghold as the Bridgend Sports group of nine and 10 year olds are developing into a more determined team.

The coaches have worked extremely hard to develop the skill base during the wet winter months and it is clearly paying dividends. Newer players Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins and Tyler Burton also made valuable contributions for the Sports.

Squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Cadan Hayes, Callum Lewis, Cian John, Dewi Worrall, Harri Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Jodie Keane, Joel Rogers, Mackenzie Dent, Thomas Chick and Tyler Burton.

New players are always welcome to join us - please visit our web page <http://bridgendsportsclub.rfc.wales> and select club then contact to get in touch or turn up at training every Wednesday at the Bandstand, Newbridge Fields at 6pm.

SP

PUBLIC ASKED TO VOTE FOR YOUR RUGBY HERO!



PICTURED: Front/middle (left to right) Andy Lewis, Barry Williams, Byron Hapgood, Keith Stone, Darren Williams, Jonathon Rogers, Keith Ruggles, Glyndwr Rees, Neil Coles, Christopher Jones. Back (left to right) Keith Parry, Janet Edwards, Jan Tomos, Julie Morgan, Marge Farr.

THE public is being asked to cast their vote for the 15 finalists in the Welsh Rugby Heroes 2016 competition, which includes two super sporting stars from Bridgend.

The contest, run by Peter's Pies, calls on clubs and individuals to nominate local rugby heroes who they think go the extra mile to support Wales' best loved game at a grassroots level, and Peter's has been inundated with nominations from across Wales.

Representing Bridgend are Keith Stone from Maesteg Celtic RFC and Julie Morgan from Bryncethin RFC. Keith has been with Maesteg Celtic for 24 years and is currently the chairman of the junior section, head of coaching, fixtures secretary, treasurer, sponsorship secretary, school's liaison officer, seconds team captain - as well as laundryman!

Julie was the driving force behind the junior Bryncethin RFC team which now has nine teams and more than 150 children. She assumes the role of mini and junior fixture secretary and committee member.

Both were selected from more than 100 entries from 85 rugby clubs by a panel of judges, and will all win a Welsh Rugby Union jersey.

It is now down to the public to choose their favourite finalist - who will be crowned Peter's Welsh Rugby Hero 2016 and win £5,000 of Under Armour kit and equipment for their club.

Prizes will also be given for second and third places, of £3,000 and £2,000 of Under Armour kit respectively - the remaining 12 finalists will each receive £100 of Under Armour kit vouchers.

The public have until March 16 to vote for their most deserving winner via www.welshrugbyheroes.com.

As an added bonus, everyone who votes will be entered into a draw to

win two tickets to Wales vs Italy at the Principality Stadium on March 19.

The finalists

JONATHAN ROGERS, chairman and coach to Llantrisant RFC mini section; Keith Ruggles started his career with Pontyclun RFC as a player for the minis 40 years ago. He is now director of rugby, coach to the youth team and women's team, fixtures secretary and a dedicated committee member;

Darren Williams is coach to the second year youth and Senior Youth teams at Abercwmboi RFC; Christopher Jones is the founding secretary and honorary life member of Newcastle Emlyn RFC; Marge Farr, team manager of Caerphilly RFC Tigers and assistant manager of the Dragons Girls; Keith Stone, chairman of the junior section, head of coaching, fixtures secretary, treasurer, sponsorship secretary, school's liaison officer, seconds team captain (as well as laundryman!) for Maesteg Celtic RFC. He has been with the club for 24 years.

Janet Edwards, treasurer at RTB mini and junior club; and has spent the last 18 years ensuring the club has the funds needed to run the teams.

Jan Thomas became involved with Penallta RFC as mini and junior secretary;

Byron Hapgood, club secretary, Monmouth RFC; Julie Morgan was the driving force that started the junior Bryncethin RFC mini and junior fixture secretary and committee member; Neil Cole, junior head coach at Clwb Rugby Cymry Caerdydd; Andy Lewis has overcome personal circumstances to become the "biggest fundraiser Brecon RFC has ever had"; Glyndwr Rees, president of Ystradgynlais RFC;

Barry Williams has been a player for Welshpool Rugby Club and junior coach; Keith Parry, president, Caernarfon RFC.

Cornelly United wins top Welsh Government community award



Adrian Morgan and Jason Jenkins (right) receive the award from Rosemary Thomas.

CORNELLY United football club has won a top award from the Welsh Assembly Government and the quarrying industry.

The South Wales League division one club's project to upgrade facilities at its ground, to encourage greater participation from young people was adjudged one of the best community projects funded by the Aggregate Levy Fund for Wales.

Club representatives Jason Jenkins and Adrian Morgan received the award from fund chairman Rosemary Thomas at the Mineral Products Association's Welsh lunch in Cardiff Bay.

Rosemary Thomas said: "The club, which runs three teams, is successful and progressive and makes an important contribution to local life, particularly for children and young people."

Unfortunately, the club's modest facilities

were suffering badly from vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. The dug-outs were targeted and used needles and broken bottles often strewn over the playing pitch. Dog owners used the pitch to exercise their pets, causing significant health risks for players.

Cornelly United received a grant of £29,000 from the Aggregate Levy Fund, which allowed them to erect new perimeter fencing and a spectator stand, aimed to provide a safe playing and training environment, while enabling the club to move into the next tier of Welsh football. It's a modest project but one which has brought significant benefits to the local community.

The Aggregate Levy Fund is supported by a £2 levy imposed on each tonne of stone from Welsh quarries. Part of the levy is used to support community and environmental initiatives in areas impacted by aggregate extraction.

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Family Notices

VINCENT Michael John (Vince)

Peacefully at home on February 28th with his loving wife Fay at his bedside. Vince, well known drummer of The Cyclones, former manager of Provident Personal Credit, Cardiff, and most recently a technician of Ward East 1 at Llandough Hospital. An adored dad of Natalie and Christian, cherished Bamp of Abi, Jasmine, Erin and Ewan. Special father-in-law to Jackie and Jason. Vince will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Barry on Monday 14th March at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service or via the online tribute page to support Action For Pulmonary Fibrosis at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay J Ellis 01446 407962.

OLDING Eunice Kathrens

Peacefully after a short illness at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, on March 1st, Eunice of Proctor Close, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of the late William, much love mum of Hilary and mother of Christine, mother-in-law of Raymond, adored nan of Alexandra, Matthew, Gavin, Claire, and Charlotte, great-nan of Louise, Tyler, Kai, Callum, Logan, Joe, Evie, Isabelle, William and Sam. Eunice will be sadly missed by Rona and family in Australia.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service in the chapel on Thursday, March 17th at 12 noon, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to the British Heart Foundation.

JACOB ROBINSON

Jacob Robinson of 17 Laburnum Way, Penarth, passed away suddenly on 20th February.

Funeral service to be held at St Augustines Church, Penarth at 12 noon on Friday 11th March.

'Sadly missed but never forgotten.'
All my love, Dad xxx

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PEARCE William Evan

Died peacefully in hospital on 4 March, aged 89. Widower of Mary and dearly loved father of Jessica, father-in-law of Robert, and uncle of Jonathan and Stephen. Funeral arrangements to follow.

OWENS Carwyn

From Llantwit Major, originally from Aberporth.

Suddenly but peacefully, Carwyn passed away on Saturday, 27th February aged 76 at Albert Edward Home, Porthcawl. Beloved husband of the late Enid, dearly loved father of Aled, Julie and of the late Dyfrig, dear father-in-law of Steve and Maria Fhe, loving Daddu of Elen and Nia, brother of Elfan and sister in law Sue, uncle of nephew Lyn & family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 14th March, service and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend and afterwards at Prince of Wales public house in Coychurch. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to Dementia Care UK c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

A special thank you to all staff at Albert Edwards Home for all the care, love and kindness given to dad during his stay with them over the last two years. His smile said it all. Diolch o galon.

Rest in peace dad, we will always love and miss you every minute of every day. You are now at peace and together. Nos da breuddwydion melus X.

SUTTON Margaret (Née Lowe)

Sadly passed away on Saturday, 5th March 2016 (her birthday), aged 90, at Llandough Hospital surrounded by her family. Long term partner to Bill, mum to Susan (deceased), Pat, Linda and Sarah, mother-in-law to John, and nana to seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She lived life to the full and travelled extensively with her partner Bill. She was generous and full of love for her family during her long and happy life. Our hearts are broken.

She will be so sadly missed.
Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, CF63 1EX, until her funeral at Merthyr Dyfan Chapel, Barry Cemetery, CF62 8BP on Thursday, 17th March at 2pm.

WILLSHAW Ian (MBE)

Ian Willshaw, who lived for many years at Craig Penllyn, died peacefully on March 2, aged 81, at The Manor House, St. Hilary. Much loved husband of Lulu, who predeceased him, and dear brother, uncle and godfather.

The funeral is at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Thursday, March 17 at 2.45pm. Family flowers only please but, if wished, donations to the Parkinson's UK charity c/o W. James & Sons, Funeral Directors, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

HARRIES Freda Kathleen (née Churchill)

Peacefully on 4th March, 2016 at Brocastle Manor Nursing Home, Freda, aged 95 years, of Lakehill Drive, Cowbridge. Devoted wife to the late Vernon and a much loved mother and grandmother.

Funeral service at St. Canna's Church, Llangan on Tuesday 15th March at 12 noon, followed by burial at The Limes Cemetery, Cowbridge at 1.15pm.

No flowers please but donations in lieu, if desired, may be made to Alzheimer's Research UK c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Rd, Pencoeed, Bridgend CF35 6SB. Tel: 01656 860545.

ILES

Janice Patricia (Jan)

Peacefully on 4 March at Llandough Hospital, Janice Patricia (Jan), aged 77 years, of Rhosce. Beloved wife of the late Richard. Loving mother of Racheal and mother-in-law of Robert. Dear sister of Ian.

Jan will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Wednesday, 16 March. Funeral service at All Saints Church, Barry at 2pm, afterwards cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Dogs Trust, Bridgend.

BATES Anne

Peacefully at home, Anne, much loved wife of the late Owen, loving mother of Jacqueline and Roger. Mother-in-law of Clive, much loved gran of Laura, Claire, Owen and Karina. Great grandmother of Jack and Freya.

Funeral service at Brwinnant Chapel, Thornhill Crematorium on Monday, March 21 at 12.45pm. Family flowers only.

GLOVER Kenneth Vivian

On Tuesday, March 1 at Llandough Hospital, with his family around him, Ken, aged 81 years. Much loved and devoted husband of Maureen, cherished father of Mandi and Carys, father-in-law of Fred, treasured and loving Grampy of Daniel and Ben. Lifelong resident of the village of St Nicholas, the last of seven brothers and sisters.

Will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, March 16, service and interment 12.30pm at St Nicholas Parish Church. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations in lieu if desired to Air Ambulance Wales or Perennial (Gardeners Benevolent Society) c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

EDWARDS Christine

Passed away peacefully on the 3rd March, Christine of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late David, a much loved mother to Sharon, Tracey and Joanne and a loving nan to Megan, Bethan, Gwen, Ryan and Ella.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St. Illtud's Church at 3pm on Thursday, 17 March, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, may be made to ABM University Health Board, Ward 5, Princess of Wales Hospital (cheques only) c/o the funeral home.

GULWELL Graham

After a battle with dementia for the last four years, Graham, aged 79 years, passed away peacefully at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on March 4. Beloved husband of Dot, much loved dad of Stephen, Kevin, Karen and their partners, loving granddad to his ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by all, especially the love of his life Dot.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel on Monday, March 21, at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to the Alzheimer's Society, Cardiff & Vale, Oldwell Court, Ty Gwyn Road, Penylan, Cardiff, CF23 5DA.

In Memory

JACOB ROBINSON

To my little brother Jake, I will always love and miss you.
Love Josh x

ATWELL Colin (Tim)

15th March
A year has passed. Miss you everyday.
Love Hilary, Julie, Lynette, Anthony & family

MURIEL OOSS

The family wish to remember Muriel, who passed away one year ago. To lose such a loving and caring person inevitably leaves a huge gap, which is difficult to fill, but we will remember her with happiness, love and in the many loving memories we shared with her.

Peter and family.

Acknowledgements

ROBINS Arthur Henry

Pam would like to sincerely thank all Rotarians, USA members, family and friends for the many messages of sympathy and support received during a very difficult time.

She would also like to thank Dr Hughes and the district nurses from Ashfield Surgery, Bridgend; the Rev David Bolt for his guidance and lovely service; and Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Pencoeed, for making the time much easier for her.

A very special thank you to all the wonderful staff at Brocastle Manor Care Home for the fantastic way in which they cared for Arthur during the last year of his life.

Thank you everyone.

Anniversaries

TYRRELL (Nee Avaient)

Golden Wedding

12th March

Happy Anniversary Janet & Dave
Love Sandra xxx

Happy Anniversary Mum & Dad
Love from Teresa, Stuart, Aaron, Bethan, Wendy, Debbie, Lee, Joseph, David, Nicola, Angela & Alex xxx



Tyrrell (née Avaient)
To my Wonderful wife Janet on our Golden Wedding Anniversary

The heart is an organ of fire which is still burning bright, and will until the end.

Yours forever, hubby Dave xxx



Birthdays

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Happy 18th Birthday!



Chloe Dawkins on 13th March 2016

Hope you have a fantastic day!

Lots of love Mum, Dad & Kyle xxx

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 www.llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
 Dyddiad Cae: 23 Mawrth

Public Notices

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Glen Harry Haulage Ltd of Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys CF64 4HG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Langlands Quarry, Cornstown CF35 5BA.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representations must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Glen Harry Haulage Ltd of Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys CF64 4HG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys, CF64 4HG.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representations must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Promotion delight for hockey teams

PENARTH 8, BRISTOL UNIVERSITY B 2

Penarth welcomed Bristol University to Stanwell School in the penultimate round of fixtures in the 2015/16 season, knowing that they still needed a victory needed to secure promotion, as well as maintaining their 100 per cent home record.

The match opened in perfect fashion, with Penarth again able to make their trademark fast start and open the scoring in the first few minutes, with David Joyce finding space at the top of the 'D' before turning and lashing the ball high into the net.

The hosts continued on the front foot, but were unable to find a second goal allowing the University side to remain in the hunt and a constant threat on the counter-attack.

Having failed to convert a number of chances Penarth were made to pay for their wastefulness, as the students finally converted a chance after breaking away at pace and in numbers. With an attacker unmarked in the 'D', goalkeeper Adam Putt was unable to replicate his earlier saves and could only watch as a reverse stick shot left him helpless.

After conceding the equaliser, Penarth looked uncharacteristically frustrated and started to force the play, looking for long balls and trying to play through the opposition.

Just as it looked like the league leaders were losing their cool and letting the occasion get the better of them, however, their quality finally shone through, with two quick-fire goals settling the nerves.

First, Croxall showed some unbelievable skill at the top of the 'D' to create space for himself before smashing a reverse stick shot passed a motionless 'keeper and, having regained possession straight from the restart, the unmarked Laith El-Khatib rifled the ball into the top corner seconds before the half-time whistle sounded.

From the restart, subtle changes paid off as Penarth began to exercise greater control over the game and started to close the net on their opponents. With the pressure mounting on the Bristol goal, it wasn't long before the home side grabbed a fourth goal, Croxall once again showing his skills as he mesmerising the defence before slipping the ball to Joyce at the back post.

With one hand on promotion, Penarth started to relax and enjoy the occasion, playing some excellent free flowing hockey which would soon reflect on the scoreboard.

El-Khatib and Croxall bagged a brace apiece, both expertly finishing reverse stick shots before Joyce completed a hat-trick to continue his impressive scoring ratio of two goals per game.

Finally, in a near carbon copy of Joyce's earlier goal, Croxall would once again hypnotise his opponent before this time slipping the ball to Richard Baker at the back post.

The Bears were perhaps guilty of celebrating a little too soon as they took their foot off the gas and allowed the visitors to score a consolation goal right at the death, leaving the final score 8-2 in their favour. Little was going to dampen Penarth spirits, however, as an elated club could finally celebrate promotion and head into the final round of fixtures as favourites for the De Cymru & The Marches 1 title.

PENARTH A 10, LANISHEN & CAERPHILLY B 1

The second XI came into their final home game of the season on the back of five straight victories which had seen them climb back into to second place in the standings, and received an unexpected boost before pushback with the news that promotion rivals Llanishen & Caerphilly A had fallen to a shock defeat at home to Whitchurch.

This meant that, due to their

already superior goal difference, a win would all but cement a top two finish and, providing there was no horrendous reversal of fortune in the final week, another promotion for the Bears to celebrate.

When Penarth had meaningful possession, they started to play the sort of hockey which had provided the foundations for their impressive run of form, and it finally paid off as veteran striker Dave Watkins applied a smart finish at the back post.

The lead was doubled soon after, as James Kidby picked up the ball in the visitors' 'D' and produced a classy finish high into the net. With momentum clearly on their side, Penarth added four more goals before half-time, with Tom Parkinson scoring with his first touch after coming on as a substitute and Watkins and Dave Kidby adding to their seasonal tallies.

The second half saw more of the same, but Llanishen & Caerphilly got the next goal against the run of play; it was not to be the start of a comeback, however, and, perhaps stung back into action by both the strike and news that title rivals Swansea University has extended their goal difference advantage by hammering Neath 6-0, Penarth finally found the back of the net.

Four further goals were added before the final whistle, spread between Watkins, Sam Docherty, Jamie Davison and James Kerr-Smith, the final pair converting late penalty corners to make the final score 10-1 in the home side's favour.

Despite still sitting second in the De Cymru 2 table, Penarth have their fate in their own hands as they travel to league leaders Swansea University this weekend knowing that a victory will secure a deserved league title.

GWENT B 2, PENARTH B 1
 The Bees travelled to Cwmbran for an evening push back buoyed by the news of the first and second teams' success and hoping that the fortune might carry over as they looked to improve on third place in De Cymru 3.

The Bees edged the first half, continuing the good play from the previous week to lead 1-0 at the break with a rare goal from the rampaging Ian Smith.

However, rather than pressing home their advantage, Penarth let Gwent back into the game through basic errors and a loss of shape and, despite the efforts of debutant and man-of-the-match James Erasmus, the home side deservedly equalised midway through the second period.

Just as the game looked like petering out into a draw, the lateness of the hour finally seemed to take effect as Penarth were caught napping with minutes remaining, and Gwent grabbed a somewhat fortunate winner to finally end any hopes, however remote, that the Bees may have had of emulating the senior teams in securing promotion.

Already assured of third place in De Cymru 3, the Bees entertain runaway leaders Whitchurch this Saturday hoping to become the only team to take points off the champions-elect this season.

All three Penarth sides will be in action on the final weekend of the GoCrea8 league season, with the second XI undoubtedly involved in the marquee game as they go head-to-head with Swansea University for the De Cymru 2 title.

The first XI, meanwhile, must win at Cardiff & Met if they are to avoid falling at the last in their bid for divisional glory, while the thirds close out their season by hosting table-topping Whitchurch.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7.15pm and 8.15pm.

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Birthday

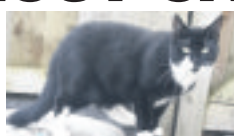
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Curtis Fowler
 15th March 2016

Best wishes from all your friends at the GEM

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Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for Kia Picanto 5-door "SR7": Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 62.8 (4.5), CO₂ emissions 105g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Available between 01/01/15 and 31/03/16 inclusive. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: 1) Renew for another 3 years, 2) Return the vehicle, 3) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.5p per mile. Subject to status, T&Cs apply, 18% or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Kia Motors Finance RMI "SR7" Model shown: Kia Picanto "SR7" 5-door 1.0 65bhp 5-speed manual at £9,045 including £1,000 customer saving (on offer price £10,045). Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. *Kia Care-3 for £99 must be activated within 30 days of vehicle registration. Care-3 is the Kia Servicing Package that covers recommended manufacturer's servicing. T&Cs apply. Offer not available with any other offer. Offers not available in The Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Retail sales only. Details correct at time of going to press. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For full terms and conditions visit www.kia.co.uk. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and owned by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Gravells Ltd trading as Gravells Bridgend are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.

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Penalty controversy sees Dinas Powys defeated by Undy

A hotly disputed goal was the only difference between Dinas Powys and Undy Athletic from opposite ends of the Division 2 table, and although Undy had to play most of the game with only 10 men, the young Dinas side took the game to their high-flying opponents, especially in the second half, and were unlucky not to get something from the game.

Undy started the game on the attack and a corner by Giles Thompson was headed off the line by a Dinas defender.

A strong run by Sam Adamson ended when he was chopped down some 25 yards from goal; Bruce took the kick but Undy keeper James Smallcombe gathered his effort comfortably.

At the other end Nathan Woods and Gareth Cullimore combined well but James Curtin saved well from Cullimore's shot.

Dinas began to settle and string some good passes together and when their hard working striker Adam Johns was fouled on the edge of the Undy box, Ryan Garland stepped up and bent a fine effort round the wall which Cullimore had to push round his post for an unproductive corner.

With 25 minutes on the clock Undy's Chris Parry was sent off

for a second yellow card offence. Despite this Undy were still dangerous and a ball through the middle to Nathan Woods saw him shoot wide when well placed.

Then came the disputed goal on 33 minutes when, from a corner, Woods poked the ball past Curtin where a defender cleared it off the line but the linesman flagged that it had crossed the line and the goal was given.

Another determined run by Adamson, who had a fine game, ended when again he was scythed down, Bruce putting the free kick too near Smallcombe for an easy catch.

The Dinas midfield three of Bruce, Keiron James and James Marr were battling hard to gain possession and gradually the extra man advantage began to tell and some fine inter-passing between James and Marr saw him get a shot on target but too far out to bother Smallcombe, and as the half ended Dinas were beginning to get on top.

The Dinas back four of Adamson, Nathan Donnelly, Paul Caulfield and Mamadu Banguraso were not too over-worked in the second half as Undy seemed content to sit on their one goal advantage and as the half went on Dinas began to pin them back in their own half for long spells.

Adamson got a good cross in for Johns but it was just too far in front of him to control. Dinas then

rang the changes, replacing Garland for Rhys Palmer and Reuben Bryl made way for Luke Swaffield.

A Bruce free kick from 30 yards almost beat Smallcombe and he had to dive to his right to make the save. The home side then pushed big central defender Donnelly up front as a target man with Marr dropping into defence.

Adamson was getting some good crosses in and from one of these James got a shot on target but it was deflected off a defender for an unproductive corner.

Despite being well on top at this stage they couldn't get the equaliser. Their best chance came when Johns played Palmer through on goal but his shot cleared the crossbar.

Dinas made their final substitution, Rhys Harlin replacing Banguraso for the last few minutes, but time ran out and Undy went home with the points.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 Sam Adamson, 3 Mamadu Banguraso, 4 Paul Caulfield, 5 Nathan Donnelly, 6 James Marr, 7 Keiron James (c), 8 Nicky Bruce, 9 Adam Johns, 10 Reuben Bryl, 11 Ryan Garland, 12 Rhys Palmer, 14 Luke Swaffield, 15 Rhys Harlin.

Dinas are next in action on Wednesday, March 23, when they travel to play Llawnern with a 7.15pm kick off.

Peter King

BOXING CHAMP LEE INSPIRES COLLEGE'S SPORTS STUDENTS



Boxer Lee Selby with the rugby academy team.

BARRY'S IBF world featherweight champion Lee Selby visited Cardiff and Vale College last week to give an inspirational talk to its sports students.

He was joined by his trainer Tony Borg, brother and fellow boxer Andrew Selby and coach Bill Reynolds, who is also a construction lecturer at CAVC.

After warming up, the Barry-

born boxer demonstrated his sparring skills with Tony in the college's state-of-the-art gym at its city centre campus.

After a tour of the campus, Lee took part in a Q&A session with the college's rugby academy team. He spoke about his training regime, the work ethic that motivates him and his readiness for a world title showdown later this year with Carl Frampton.

"I've really enjoyed meeting

the students today," Lee said.

"When I was in school, you never had anyone come in to give inspirational talks or demonstrate their skills, so giving something back to the students is great – it means the world to me.

"This new campus has an excellent gym; it has all the facilities they need, which is great for these rugby players."

THE BARRY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE TABLES AND RESULTS

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 8, Wyndham Cons 7; Moors Boys 7, Liberals 8; Rhoose Social 7, Cadoxton Cons 8.

League table: West End 135, Wyndham Cons 135, Rhoose Social 132, Liberals 130, West End Runaways 123, Cadoxton Cons 118, Moors Boys 112.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 6, King William XII 1; Allsorts 2, West End D 5; Slammers 2, Rhoose Social C 5; Rhoose Social A 2, West End C 5; Liberals C 1.5.

'Wrong way to tackle a problem'

AS with any activity, safety is of paramount importance but calls to ban tackling in schools rugby is not the best idea I've heard recently.

Many years ago, my boss suggested I should stop playing rugby when I turned up for work with a chipped ankle bone, after playing in a Pembrokehire Cup final. The same evening, he was hit in the eye playing squash and had a week off work.

It's not just contact sports that have risks of injury; each activity has its own element of risk. It's how we manage and reduce these risks that is important. Good practice, teaching, coaching, refereeing and instilling good attitudes and sportsmanship are essential and the earlier this is done, the better. Risk, of course, can be reduced, but never eliminated completely. The new awareness of

concussion is one recent improvement; not only rugby, but also football, and other sports must follow suit.

As a parent and grandparent of rugby-playing siblings, I do worry, but you cannot keep them wrapped up in cotton wool. Bumps and bruises are part and parcel of growing up. Back in the 70s while in college, I met Ross McWhirter, one of the twins of Guinness Book of Records fame and he said rugby, more than any other sport, helps to develop socially, emotionally, mentally and physically fit citizens.

By all means monitor and improve safety if at all possible but don't try to tackle the problem by outlawing tackling.

Teach children in school how to tackle properly; no high tackles; use arms – head in right position, etc – encourage sportsmanship. The alternative might be to take up Morris dancing! **Dai Griffiths,**

Barries Boys 5.5; Rhoosters 2.5, Rugby Club 4.5; Rhoose Social B 5, Cambrian Flyers 2.

League table: Sea View B 92.5, West End D 76, Rugby Club 75, Barries Boys 70.5, King William XII 64, Rhoose Social B 63.5, West End C 61.5, Allsorts 59, Slammers 59, Rhoose Social A 56.5, Liberals A 55, Rhoosters 54.5, Rhoose Social C 49, Liberals C 46, Cambrian Flyers 42.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Market Street C 2, Wyndham Cons A 3; Harbour B 2, Savoy A 3; Rhoose Social B 1, Penarth Cons B 4; West End C 4, Rhoose Social C 1; Caddy Allstars 0, Cadoxton Cons B 5.

League table: Savoy A 74, Harbour B 74, Cadoxton Cons B 64, Wyndham Cons A 58, West End C 54, *Cadoxton Cons Z 43, Rhoose Social C 37, Caddy Allstars 35, Rhoose Social B 33, Market Street C 32, Penarth Cons B 32.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 0, Services Social B 5; Liberators 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3; Penarth Cons A 1, Savoy B 4; Wyndham Cons D 2, West End A 3; Market Street B 3, Wyndham Cons C 2.

League table: Services Social B 67, Market Street B 63, Penarth Cons A 62, Liberators 61, Savoy B 58, Wyndham Cons C 52, Cadoxton Cons A 45, West End A 44, Sully Sports A 37, West End B 31, Wyndham Cons D 30 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Gymnasts impress at championships event!

PENARTH Gymnastic Club collected 14 mens and 10 womens Welsh Gymnastic titles over the weekend.

The Welsh Artistic & Disability Gymnastics Championships 2016 were held at the Sport Wales National Centre in Cardiff, and on the Saturday the mens competition took place with Penarth Gymnastics Club gymnasts taking part in the mens disability competition.

All five male gymnasts took part in this morning session, junior and senior CAT 1 comp A and B competition - in comp A James Savory kicked off the competition on the first apparatus, the Parrell bars.



Penarth Gymnastics Club gymnasts.

With only first place in the closely fought competition receiving a medal on individual apparatus, Gareth Lloyd

took the gold medal on the Parrell bars, floor, pommels and rings.

James Savory received the gold medals on high bar and vault and mens senior Welsh Gymnastics disability cat 1 comp A overall title.

Gareth Lloyd received the silver medal and Kieran Parson the bronze overall medal.

In the senior cat 1 comp B, David Melly from Cardiff won all six apparatus and received the mens senior Welsh Gymnastics disability in the senior cat 1 comp B overall title, while Ashley Ward from Sully received the overall silver medal in the under-14 cat 1 comp B.

Sunday was the womens' turn to shine, with Charlotte Hitt, from Dinas Powis, competing

in cat 1 comp B under-14, receiving gold on all apparatus and the womens' under-14 Welsh Gymnastics cat 1 comp B overall title.

Katie Whittaker from Cardiff, competing in the cat 2 comp B under-14 yet again, took all apparatus and the womens' under-14 Welsh Gymnastics cat 2 comp B overall title.

Penarth Gymnastics Club is now based at Ty Verlon Estate, Barry - anyone interested in joining the club please contact Mrs Gwynedd Lingard MBE on 09290 703701 or email: penarthgymnasticsclub@gmail.com.

We hold classes daily for beginners to advance gymnasts, or come and try our new 'pay as you go' class on a Saturday.

Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

THE latest results for Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for February 15 are as follows:

First division: SV Gals (J Richards 34) 305, Cigar Ladies (A McCarthy, L Webb 29) 291; Special Angels (L Brigham 31) 249, Baker's Dozen (K James, M Lewis 25) 225; Space Finders (M Clark 37) 333, Coppers (G Wride 33) 337; Bobby's Girls (N Toogood, S Seldon 27) 235, Castle Bandits (M Macey 27) 262; Colcot Ladies (H Edwards 28) 224, Family and Friends (S Brown 25) 248; Breakaways (V Martin 31) 299, Family Affair (J Walden 32) 305; Allsorts (K Bunting, L Thomas 31) 281, Barry

Stars (N Jones 22) 224. Second division: Pila Palas (R Webb 33) 325, Rhoose Starlights (L Fields 31) 297; Cad Con Fillies (T Clements 26) 234, Little Devils (D Harry 23) 211; Castaways (A Greening, K Billings 30) 287, Vixens (N Sheppard 32) 273; Rhoose Ravens (C Bagnall, A Sheddum 24) 231, After Eights (M Hallybur 26) 237; Witchill Widows (B Bickerton 34), Red Admiral (J McCarthy 34) 327; SV Lights (P Beadle, M Seixas 30) 288, Clickies (K Watts 27) 240. Third division: Rugby Triers (G Gough 20) 207, Fallen Angels (L Chambers 25) 226; Hill Belles (H Collins 32) 333, La Belles (C Knight 32) 306; Persuaders (C Purbrick 28) 226, Westenders (G

Somers 23) 221; Etcetera (J Barton 26) 259, Friends and Neighbours (B Nicholls 27) 232; Airways Angels (M Carpenter 28) 229, Roller Coasters (G Giles 25) 218; Sea View Ladies (S Davey, C Griffiths 26) 244, Twilights (S Davis 32) 289.

Fourth division: Liberals (S Andrews 22) 183, Guardian Angels (S Clarke 28) 179; Off The Rails (J Sims 26) 183, Challengers (M Griffith 26) 249; Uptown Girls (J Cosslett 26) 183, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 28) 206; Socialites (J Savory 32) 266, Odd Bods 180; Living On A Spare (S Townsend 34) 310; Aristocats (T Weston, M Rogers 32) 312; Witches (J Caton 30) 277, Hell Raisers (B Nugent 28) 238.

Cup final joy for under-14s



VALE Ladies & Girls FC travelled to Taffs Well on March 3 to play in the under-14 South Wales FA Cup final against local rivals Cardiff City Ladies.

This was the club's first appearance in a cup final and cheered on by many parents, players and supporters, the girls put in an outstanding performance.

Having already beaten their final opponents in the league days earlier, Vale were looking for a fast start to the game executing their high tempo passing game and within the opening five minutes they had secured a two goal lead.

First, the impressive Sian Rees fired home after two minutes after some good build up play before midfielder, Anais Trinci doubled Vale's lead.

Striker Grace Horrell powered her way through the Cardiff defence, before slotting home for 3-0 and soon after it was four when winger Megan Sully shot home from 12 yards to put the Sky Blues in control after just 18 minutes.

The Vale defence were rarely

troubled, marshalled by captain Daisy Connolly, Rebecca Gentles, Phoebe Williams and goalkeeper Mae Atkins.

The midfield took control of the game from the start with the industrious Holly Jenkins and Kate Spargo breaking up play before setting up countless attacks on the Cardiff goal.

Sophie Hawkins also on the left caused problems for Cardiff and by half time the goal tally had gone to 6-0, Grace Horrell grabbing another two goals to complete her hat-trick.

The second half saw two Vale changes with Aliyah Jama and Grace Corne replacing Hawkins and Sully.

Vale maintained their relentless approach and played some excellent football in tough conditions with the pitch cutting up badly as the game progressed. Maisy Gibbs replaced Phoebe Curtis midway through the second half.

Horrell grabbed the game's seventh goal after great link up with forward Rees, before a fantastic team goal made it 8-0.

A lofted through ball from Jenkins found Rees on the left

who played a first time ball to the edge of the area for Trinci who controlled the ball before firing home with the outside of her foot.

Jenkins got her reward for an excellent display blasting home the ninth goal before Rees scored two excellent individual goals.

Horrell rounded off things with the final goal of the game but there was also a missed penalty which couldn't dampen the Vale spirit as the girls completed a comfortable 12-0 victory to win the SWFA Cup for the first time.

Credit has to go to the Cardiff players who kept on battling throughout despite the scoreline showing great team spirit.

It was a fantastic achievement from the girls and mention must also go to Erin Prynn, Chloe Moggridge and Olivia Townsend who didn't play on the night but have been a big part of the squad throughout the campaign.

Vale will now turn their attention to the league and league cup competitions where they are aiming to challenge for further honours.

LW

SKATERS PASS WITH FLYING COLOURS!



GLAMORGAN Artistic Roller Skating Club's young skaters have started the year brilliantly by succeeding first to attain passes in the Federation medal tests.

In the elementary class, Bethan Daly, Phoebe Escott, Michael Vaughan, Ewan Maxwell and Medi Western all passed with flying colours; the judges from Gloucester, Jenny Newbury and Sara Rymell, were very complimentary.

Passing their preliminary test, both Kaitlin Daly and Phoebe Escott skated beautifully.

On February 20/21, we travelled to Haywards Heath for the



Federation's Spring Championships where skaters from all over the country were competing. Two very long days, all told there were over a thousand skaters in various competitions competing in several events.

We very proudly won four bronze medals - Maya Archampong won two medals, Bethan Daly, Ewan Maxwell

collected one each.

Our other skaters skated very well, and they were Kaitlin Daly, Michael Vaughan and Erin Maxwell.

Having done so well it is so sad we cannot get the practise time and floor space we need so badly having been informed that the floor at Barry Leisure Centre is not fit for our purpose.

Thanks to the

volunteer coaches Sheilah Davies, head coach, and her assistants who give so much of their time - Donna Daly, Anne-Marie Escott, Liz Vaughan, Amy Goodwin, Sarah Archampong our driver, Alice Maxwell, the navigator, and the mums who do so much.

We skate at Colcot Sports Hall, Barry, every Tuesday, 6pm-7pm.

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In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c
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£6,995



12 RENAULT Twingo Dynamique 3-Dr 1.1cc
In Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles,
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59 HONDA Jazz 1.4 V-Tec Ex
In electric blue, sought after model
with panoramic roof
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62 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-Dr
Verde lime, 22,000 miles, 1 owner
REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,495



09 AUDI TT Quattro 2.0 HDi
White, black leather, 63,000 miles
£11,995



62 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 Active 3-Dr
In metallic purple, 16,000
miles, low insurance
£6,995



60 JAGUAR XF 3.0 Diesel Premium Luxury 'S'
Black with black leather, 49k miles
£15,495

- 62 BMW 520 D SE In silver with black leather, 41,000 mile executive diesel saloon at**£15,995**
- 60 JAGUAR XF 3.0 Diesel Premium Luxury 'S' In black with black leather, 49,000 miles**£15,495**
- 09 AUDI TT Quattro 2.0 HDi In white with black leather sports seats, 63,000 miles**£11,995**
- 06 RANGE Rover TD6 SE Auto In silver with granite leather, 62,000 miles, host of extras**£11,995**
- 54 VW Transporter 2.5 (130) TDI L/W/B In silver, too many options to list **REDUCED BY £500 TO £11,495**
- 11 MERCEDES C220 CDI SE In black, 67,000 mile diesel saloon, with sat-nav**£10,995**
- 60 AUDI A3 2.0TDi Sport 5-Dr In white, 36,000 miles, low running costs**£9,995**
- 61 NISSAN Qashqai 1.6 Acenta In black, 33,000 miles, very nice example**£9,495**
- 11 MINI Cooper 1.6 Convertible In interchange yellow with black roof, 60,000 miles with chilli pack**£8,995**
- 11 MINI Cooper 1.6 Chilli In British racing green, 22,000 miles**£8,495**
- 62 VW Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr In red, 20,000 miles, 1 owner, superb throughout**£7,995**
- 62 FIAT Diablo 1.6 Multi Jet Diesel Eleganza In met grey, 41,000 miles, 1 owner example**£7,995**
- 61 SKODA Fabia 1.6 Diesel Scout Crios Estate In met grey, 23,000 miles**£7,995**
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- 64 MG3 3 Style 1.5 VTI 5-Dr In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c alloys etc **REDUCED TO £6,995**
- 13 KIA Venga '2' Automatic 1.6 5-Dr In black, 37,000 miles, 1 owner**£6,995**
- 62 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDi Zetec 3-Dr In white, 49,000 mile new shape diesel at**£6,995**
- 62 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 Active, 3-Dr metallic purple, 16,000 miles, low insurance**£6,995**
- 12 SKODA Roomster 1.6 TDi SE Plus In black, 39,000 miles, 1 owner **REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,995**
- 12 FORD Fiesta 1.4 ZETEC 5-Dr In black, 36,000 miles with parking sensors etc**£6,995**
- 60 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE Automatic 5-Dr In met-blue water, 81,000 mile diesel hatch**£6,995**
- 59 VW Golf Plus 1.4 TSi SE In silver, 50,000 miles, host of extras, superb example**£6,995**
- 59 VOLVO C30 R-Design 1.6 Coupe In met titanium, 29,000 miles, very nice example**£6,995**
- 10 BMW 116D SPORT 2.0 3-DR In met grey, 35,000 miles**£6,995**
- 10 VOLVO C30 D-Drive 1.6 Diesel SE In black, 62,000 miles, 1 owner**£6,995**
- 62 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE 5-Dr In verde lime, 22,000 miles, 1 owner **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,495**
- 11 SKODA Octavia 1.4 TSi SE Plus 5-Dr In met-grey, 55,000 miles, 1 owner with sat-nav**£6,495**
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- 13 HYUNDAI i20 Active 1.2 5-Dr In black, 40,000 miles, a/c alloys etc**£5,995**
- 13 HYUNDAI i20 Active 1.2 3-Dr In white, 27,000 miles, 1 owner**£5,995**
- 62 VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 Diesel Exclusive 5-Dr In met-grey, 66,000 miles**£5,995**
- 12 SKODA Fabia 1.2 SE 4-Dr In silver, 24,000 miles, very nice example at**£5,995**

- 11 ALFA Romeo 1.4 Mito Veloce 3-Dr In nero etna metallic, 53,000 miles with leather trim etc**£5,995**
- 11 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Tom-Tom Coupe In black, 36,000 miles, 1 owner**£5,995**
- 61 SKODA Fabia 1.2 TDi Greenlink 5-Dr In red, 50,000 miles, 1 owner, "Free road tax"**£5,995**
- 09 FORD Fiesta 1.6 ZETEC 'S' In silver, 49,000 mile local car on offer at**£5,995**
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- 64 SUZUKI Alto S23 5-Dr In white, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax**£5,495**
- 12 FIAT Punto 1.4 GBT 3-Dr In passion-red, 15,000 miles, 1 owner**£5,495**
- 10 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Executive 5-Dr In silver, 43,000 miles, 2 owners**£5,495**
- 10 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE 5-Dr In met blue, 68,000 miles, 2 owners**£5,495**
- 61 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDi Edge Econetic 5-Dr In silver, 71,000 miles, fantastic MPG & free road tax**£5,495**
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COWBRIDGE UNDER-16S ON SPELLBINDING FORM

FOLLOWING several weeks of weather-affected, cancelled fixtures, Cowbridge under-16s entertained Pencoed on Cowbridge RFC's main pitch.

The Pencoed players faced a Cowbridge squad which in past years has had an almost unrivalled record of winning tournaments from Bournemouth to Monmouth and Kidwelly, and have also won the Blues Region Cup and been losing finalists.

The match began with some well-contested play and a series of rucks resulting in Reubin Williams making good ground before passing to centre Max Cunningham, who powered his way through a mass of defenders to score beneath the posts.

Outside half, Bevan Howells duly converted.



Shortly after, second row Ellis Simon, took a clean catch at a lineout, with the resulting movement including a robust run from Jac Roberts and a pass to centre Max Cunningham to score his second try in the corner.

A superb touchline conversion by Bevan Howells brought the score to 14-0.

Following the restart, a lineout within the home side's 22 metre area resulted in a palmed ball from Cameron Roy to scrum half loan Lewis, who set his backs into action.

A series of exchanged kicks eventually resulted in winger Angus James, running from within his own half, rounding three defenders to score beneath the posts, Bevan Howells converting.

Shortly after, some good work by flanker Dylan Cottle led to Bevan Howells scoring a much deserved try which he then converted.

Shortly after, hard-working prop Dan Taylor provided a scoring pass to Angus James.

Just before the half-time whistle Cunningham cast a spell on his opponents, who seemed to clutch at thin air as he stormed his way from within his own half to achieve his hat-trick and provide a 38-0 half-time score.

Some second half substitutions were made by the home side and some formidable work by their pack resulted in a determined drive by Josh Lloyd-Doyle and then a courageous Cameron Roy, who off-loaded to the ever-supporting scrum half loan Lewis to score a well deserved try.

Bevan Howells' boot added the conversion. The final try of the match came from a jinking Jac Roberts whose zig-zags confused the spectators let alone the unfortunate defenders!

The resulting conversion from Bevan Howells brought the score to 52-0 and so, as is now customary with the 50 point rule, the referee blew up early.

Our thanks go to the Pencoed team for providing never-say-die opposition and whose efforts and determination were very much appreciated by the onlooking spectators.

Big footballing names head to Vale

FORMER England Manager Glenn Hoddle will be heading to the Vale Sports Arena in Penarth as part of a special Euro 2016 Sports Dinner.

Guests will enjoy a three course meal, Q and A, speeches, auctions and much more in a fun and enjoyable action-packed evening.

Hoddle will be joined by Wales legend Neville Southall on May 13 in a special warm up to Euro 2016 and the much-anticipated encounter between England and Wales. He will also discuss his playing career and time as England manager.

Manchester United FC treble winner Andrew Cole will speak on April 29 about his successful career with Newcastle FC and Manchester United FC, where he won over 13 major honours.

In October one of the finest British footballers will grace the Vale Sports Arena as Paul Gascoigne will speak to guests about his career with Newcastle FC, Tottenham FC, playing in Italy with Lazio and, of course, that memorable World Cup in 1990 in Italy in his first sports dinner in Wales.

A PG10 Coaching spokesman added: "We are thrilled to help bring some of the biggest names in sport to the area, which we hope will inspire local people and children and enable them to take part in more sport related activities."

To book tickets for any of these events please email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

Early St David's Day for ladies!



ON February 25, a lovely sunny day, the ladies of Cottrell Park Golf Club celebrated an early St David's Day with a 12 hole Stableford competition followed by a light lunch.

Daffodils, leeks and dragons were the teams of the day. The individual competition was won by Toots Plant

with 21 points on the back six from Jan Cosby, and Helen Evans came third with the same score.

The ladies' captain Sian Lovell presented the prizes. The team competition was called an honourable draw and all ladies present were presented with a bunch of daffodils.

CB



PG

'Don't ban tackling in school rugby'

'A TACKLING ban will threaten our national game', the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives has said.

Commenting on a letter which was sent to the Welsh Government calling for a ban on rugby tackling in schools, Andrew RT Davies AM said: "This is rather bizarre and yet another example of health and safety gone mad – a ban on tackling in schools' rugby would have huge ramifications on our national game."

"Without question, the safety of children participating in the sport is paramount and that is why coaching and educating youngsters on the art of tackling is such a vital aspect of the game and a player's development process."

"You do have to wonder what could be next? A ban on driving a

car for fear of getting in an accident? Safety of players should be at the top of everyone's agenda but some common sense needs to be applied and this proposal is one step too far.

"To ban tackling would pose a huge threat to our national game in Wales and would severely hamper our chances of producing the next Sam Warburton or Jamie Roberts."

"Good progress has been made in recent times over 'head injuries' and that has been down to the successful increase of education and awareness."

"Rugby is a superb sport, providing entertainment and joy to all four corners of our great country and importantly provides numerous benefits to children – such a ban would threaten our national game at all levels."

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Gatland orders, 'No change' as... Wales get set to take the wheels off English chariot

AN in or out debate far more pressing than any referendum on Europe, has kept Welsh rugby in suspense for two weeks – waiting for the team to be announced for the big clash at Twickenham on Saturday.

Pundits have been divided over which key players in certain positions should get the starting nod as Wales seek to overturn the English chariot (not for the first time) as it trundles towards a Grand Slam title last won in 2003.

The guessing game centred on the make-up of the back row; would head coach Warren Gatland repeat an earlier experiment of playing two number 7s – skipper Sam Warburton and Justin Tipuric alongside Taulupe Faletau? Perhaps not

by
DON JOHN

unexpectedly, in view of the task that lies ahead against the English juggernaut, he has stayed with chop-tackling Dan Lydiate as the third man in a more familiar, well-tested line-up.

He has also resisted the temptation to draft in scrum half Rhys Webb, now recovered from injury but short of game time, keeping faith with the lightning-quick Gareth Davies, who has proved a more than capable deputy for the Osprey man in the interim.

Equally, in the second row he has opted to retain the abrasive Bradley Davies in the starting line-up, rather than recall Luke Charteris, also newly recovered from injury.

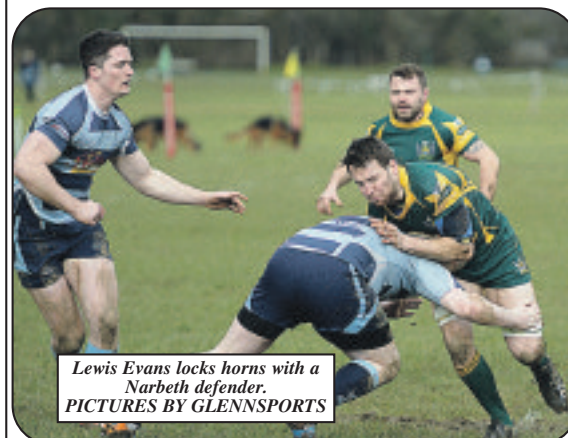
All three will wait to be called on

from a strong-looking replacements bench that underpins an unchanged starting line-up – and completes a settled 23-man squad which (fingers crossed!) should have enough in the tank to bring Twickenham's chariot to a juddering halt, and end the men in white's dream of a Gatland-like Grand Slam debut for new head coach Eddie Jones – if only by the narrowest of margins.

WALES TEAM

Liam Williams; Alex Cuthbert, Jonathan Davies, Jamie Roberts, George North; Dan Biggar, Gareth Davies; Rob Evans, Scott Baldwin, Samson Lee, Bradley Davies, Alun Wyn Jones, Dan Lydiate, Sam Warburton (c), Taulupe Faletau. Replacements: Ken Owens, Paul James, Tomas Francis, Luke Charteris, Justin Tipuric, Rhys Webb, Rhys Priestland, Gareth Anscombe.

All square as Ath and Narbeth battle to draw



Lewis Evans locks horns with a Narbeth defender.
PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS



Jonathan Phillips put in a classy performance at outside-half on Saturday.

Kenfig RFC seconds reach Cup final after a titanic struggle!

KENFIG Hill seconds reached the Enoch-Lewis cup final for the second successive year with a hard-fought win in the Llynfi valley sunshine against Nantyffyllon.

Having played just three weeks ago, both teams were aware of each other's strengths.

Kenfig Hill started strongly with the lion's share of possession and went in front with a penalty from Jac

Briggs.

Kenfig Hill had Nanty pinned in their corner with a succession of scummages but couldn't take advantage and came away without scoring.

Despite staying in the Nanty half for most of the first half, the score remained 0-3 by half-time.

Midway through the second half, Kenfig Hill scored from a pushover try, with Lewis Rees claiming the touchdown and Jac Briggs adding the

conversion.

However, with a final at stake, Nanty came back strongly late in the second half as they scored a converted try in the corner and a penalty to bring the scores level at 10-10.

However, Kenfig Hill brought on their experienced bench and after a kick downfield, Lewis Rees, moving onto the wing, claimed another touchdown in the corner.

Nanty came straight back though and scored after the ball went loose in the Kenfig Hill 22; the conversion was missed leaving the scores tight at 15-17.

From the kick off, Kenfig managed to turn over possession and Connor O'Connell went over under the posts for a converted try to make the final score 15-24 to Kenfig Hill.

Nantyffyllon made it an exciting game with some running rugby of their own in the second half, although it is Kenfig Hill who will play either Bridgend Athletic or Maesteg Celtic in the final at Cefn Cribbwr on April 16.

Seventh heaven for Penybont FC under-18s

PENYBONT under-18s recorded their highest victory away from home so far this season with a well-controlled performance against Brackla, the final score 7-0.

Penybont started the game well and opened their account for the day in the 12th minute of the match.

Elis Mordecai played a good ball into the box from the left of the pitch which found striker Jac Lewis who should good composure to put Penybont ahead.

Just seven minutes later Penybont doubled their lead through Ciaran Roberts, who rolled the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the goal after being on the end of another Elis Mordecai assist.

Penybont were now dominating the game and scored their third goal in the space of 11 minutes. Jac Lewis did what a good striker should do as he punished a Brackla defensive error by calmly giving Penybont a first half 3-0 lead.

Brackla were more competitive at the start of the second half and had some good chances to get back in the game.

Stand-in Penybont goalkeeper Ben Davies, who usually plays centre back, made a few terrific saves to keep Brackla at bay.

Penybont defenders

Arran Williams and Adrian Boguslawski in particular proved to be too solid for the Brackla attack to trouble.

The floodgates opened in the final 15 minutes of the match where Penybont scored a further four goals to seal the victory.

Penybont's fourth came from Oliver Waagenes, whose long-range strike went in after a deflection from a Brackla defender put the ball out of the goalkeeper's reach.

Penybont were awarded a penalty in the 80th minute of the game and Connor James made no mistake from the penalty spot as he sent the keeper the wrong way.

From the restart, Matthew Symons quickly netted a sixth goal for Penybont.

Substitute Alex Vidler then scored from close range after turning in a Matthew Symons cross to secure a more than decent 7-0 victory.

Overall, Penybont can be pleased with their good all round performance where they demonstrated some solid defending as well as some potent attacking play - well done!

TOM PROSSER

BRIDGEND Athletic and Narbeth both started the game with 33 championship points. They finished the game in joint seventh position on 35 points with a hard-fought 10-10 draw.

The Athletic were quick out of the blocks and dominated the opening session. They were rewarded with a penalty from wing Lewis Evans.

Evans then took a quick drop out from his own 22 and clever interplay with scrum half Jake Williams and hooker Nathan Hallman saw the move halted inside the Narbeth 22 where the Athletic were awarded a penalty. Unfortunately, Evans sent the kick wide of the upright.

Narbeth then came back at the Athletic and dominated possession for the remainder of the half. A combination of good defence, particularly from the back row of Stuart Edbrook, Ben Howe and Sean Williams, and handling errors prevented the visitors troubling the scoreboard in the first half.

The Otters started the second half on top and Ianto Griffiths kicked a penalty to touch for a five-metre lineup.

Fortunately for the Athletic, Sean Williams won the Narbeth throw, avoiding a potential driving maul, and the Athletic were able to clear. A Ianto Griffiths penalty then levelled the scores.

The visitors' pressure eventually paid dividends as centre Steve Martin took an inside pass and broke clear from 40 metres out to cross unopposed under the posts. Griffiths converted to put Narbeth 10-3 ahead.

This stunned the Athletic into action and the pack started to get on top. The juggernaut Narbeth pack had great

difficulty in halting the Athletic's driving mauls.

Outside half Jonathan Phillips showed his class with strong kicking out of hand and a succession of breaks which nearly led to tries.

The Athletic, with three minutes remaining, elected to kick a penalty into touch five metres from the Narbeth line.

Narbeth continually pulled down a succession of driving mauls and paid the penalty when their flanker was sent to the sin bin.

Finally the Athletic pack, with props Wayne Fooks and Matt Muir and locks Griff Davies and Tom Penry-Ellis to the fore, drove over the line for number 8 Stuart Edbrook to cross for the try. Evans converted to level the scores.

From the restart, the Athletic made a concerted effort to win the game and Narbeth infringed inside their own 22.

With the wind and rain blowing against him Evans put the last kick of the game wide. On reflection a draw was a fair result.

The teams have to do it all again this coming Saturday, March 12, when they meet at Narbeth ahead of the England v Wales game.

Athletic head coach John Apsee was disappointed not to win the game. He particularly praised the back row of Ben Howe, Stuart Edbrook and captain Sean Williams, who kept the Athletic in the game during the first half.

While he could not fault the team's efforts, he felt that they kicked away possession aimlessly at times and only played to their true potential when they found themselves 10-3 in arrears.

AB

Porthcawl bridge club

THE Porthcawl Duplicate Bridge Club held a heat of the WBU St David's Day Simultaneous Pairs, in which the same hands are played at a number of clubs within the principality.

The local heat winners were Terry Dolan and Roger Plant, but in the national rankings, when scored centrally over a larger field, they were overtaken by Connie Dick and Pat Cogbill.

Latest results are: Saturday, February 20: First – John Beard & Tony Haworth; Second – Dil Evans & Roger Draper. Thursday,

February 25: First – Keith Davison & Janet Richards; Second – Sue Anthony & Tony Haworth.

Saturday, February 27: First – John Beard & Tony Haworth; Second – Connie Dick & Marian Evans. Thursday, March 3, St. David's Day Simultaneous Pairs: First – Roger Plant & Terry Dolan; Second – Connie Dick & Pat Cogbill.

The club meets twice a week, Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, 7pm-10.15pm – visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

DHD